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OCTOBER 2009

"You know, Alundra Blayze, with her looks could star in a T.V. western—if she had two more legs!"
JERRY LAWLER

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Apologies for the lateness of this issue. Normal service will be resumed next issue, with more content, interviews and US Indy news.

World News

■ by Mike Aldren

Courtesy of
THE WRESTLING GLOBE Newsletter

Highspots.com have put Ric Flair's NWA title belt on sale for $75,000. They have taken this drastic action because Flair has apparently failed to repay money lent to him by the merchandise group.

Umaga (Eddie Fatu) cancelled a shoot interview taping with RFVideo.com because he claims to be returning to WWE.

Rob Van Dam on his WWE Universe blog asked whether he should return to WWE or go to TNA.

Booker T has told friends recently that he doesn't expect to continue with TNA beyond his current deal and mentioned going back to WWE.

Don West has a new on-air role as the manager/cheerleader of Amazing Red.

Randy Orton vs. John Cena in a 60-minute Iron Man match for the WWE title was announced for the October 25 Bragging Rights PPV in Pittsburgh.

Ricky Steamboat did an interview with Bill Apter and said he would love to work a program with Ric Flair. "I think it would perk up a lot of people," he said. "I would certainly love to do it, I know [Ric] would too."

Matt Morgan confirmed a new five-year deal with TNA.

Steve Corino was announced as retuning to Ring of Honor on November 5 and 6 at the TV tapings in Philadelphia.

Danny Bonaduce is claiming he turned down doing Hulk Hogan's Australian tour because the money was "[expletive]".

Nick Hogan, son of Hulk, is training for pro wrestling at the Knokx Pro Academy in Burbank, CA. The school is run by Rikishi, Gangrel, Black Pearl, and Orlando Jordan. They are supplying a lot of the talent for the upcoming Hulkamania tour in Australia.

An independent film maker is shooting a soap-style wrestling show that will closely resemble MTV's The Hills. The cast includes former WWE Divas and current TNA Knockouts including Shelly Martinez, Lacey Von Erich, Lizzy Valentine and Rhaka Khan.

During a house show in Switzerland Scott Steiner tore up a Swiss flag for cheap heat causing fans to toss beer cans at the ringside area, and one fan even tossed a plastic chair, which Steiner violently launched back into the crowd.

Terry Funk was contacted about coming in for Bound for Glory. No idea yet what his involvement would be.

The latest word on Sting is that he will finish up at Bound For Glory. They have pitched some type of retirement tour to him that would run in 2010.

Sean Haire, the former WWE/WCW wrestler, has a December 10 hearing in Savannah to answer charges of battery and criminal trespass against his ex-girlfriend.

Vince McMahon on UFC: "You really can't compete with that. Why not deliver a more sophisticated product and not go to those extremes? If the audience wants those extremes, they know where to go and how to get it."

To receive all the latest professional wrestling news and gossip direct to your mailbox send an email to wrestlingglobe-subscribe@topica.com

STATE OF INDEPENDENTS

| By STEVE ASHFIELD (News Editor) - mageditoruk@googlemail.com |

American News

All is not well in Ring of Honor at present and that's putting it mildly. The Nigel McGuinness and Bryan Danielson era has ended as WWE raid the company for two of the biggest names in ROH history.

Tony Knox - www.tonyknox.org.uk

'The Final Countdown Tour' concluded with shows in Boston on September 25th where Roderick Strong beat Nigel McGuinness and Davey Richards defeated Bryan Danielson while Claudio Castagnoli won a Four Corner Survival match against Petey Wiliams, Chris Hero and El Generico and on the 26th Bryan Danielson ended his ROH career with a win over Nigel McGuinness at the Manhattan Center in New York.

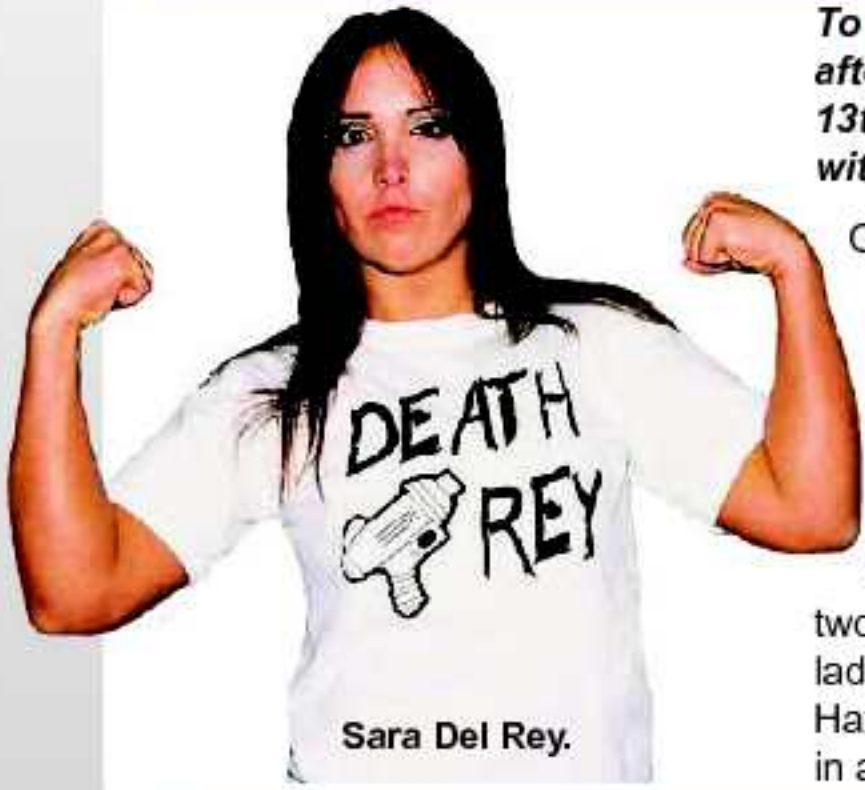
Life after Danielson and McGuinness begins with a show in Collinsville on October 9th with The Young Bucks facing ROH World Tag Team Champions The American Wolves, Tyler Black taking on Chris Hero, The Briscoes are up against The House of Truth and SHIMMER Champion MsChif takes on Nicole Matthews.

The following day they're in Indianapolis with Kenny Omega taking on Chris Hero, Tyler Black having a grudge match with Kenny King and The Young Bucks facing The House of Truth. GHC Jr. Heavyweight Champion KENTA makes his return to the company in November. More information at www.rohwrestling.com

Bryan Danielson said his goodbyes to Pro Wrestling Guerilla at 'Guerre Sans Frontieres' No one will ever forget his farewell appearance as he won the PWG World title from Chris Hero and immediately vacated the belt. A new

champion will be crowned at the Battle of Los Angeles taking place on November 20th and 21st. The same show saw tag champions The Young Bucks and Brian Kendrick go down in defeat to CIMA and The Motor City Machine Guns.

The next card is 'Against The Grain' on October 2nd at American Legion Post #308 in Reseda with The Young Bucks putting their tag titles on the line against Men of Low Moral Fiber (Kenny Omega and Chuck Taylor). Also confirmed is Chris Hero v El Generico, Brian Kendrick takes on Roderick Strong, it's Kenny King v Davey Richards and Scott Lost v Joey Ryan plus two four-way Battle of Los Angeles qualifying matches. More details at www.prowrestlingguerilla.com



Sara Del Rey.

To CHIKARA next and Player Dos still holds the Young Lions Cup after beating Player Uno at 'Hiding in Plain Sight' on September 13th. The same show saw The Colony beat Ophidian and Amasis with two straight falls in a Compeonatas de Parejas title match.

On October 17th they're at the Palmer Center in Easton on October 17th for 'An Optimistic View of a Pessimistic World' with Brodie Lee and Grizzly Redwood getting a shot at the Los Campeonatos de Parejas titles, Jigsaw takes on STIGMA, Claudio Castagnoli is up against Player Uno and The Badd Boys face Helios and Lince Dorado. The following day it's 'Ciibernetico Increible' at The Arena in South Philadelphia with the sixth annual Torneo Cibernetico taking place with Fire Ant and Soldier Ant named as captains of the two squads for the 16-man elimination match. Also confirmed is a ladies tag match as Sara Del Rey and La Malcriada take on Daizee Haze and Atsuko Emoto while Eddie Kingston faces Ryuichi Kawakami in a CHIKARA v BJW match. More info at www.chikarapro.com

In CZW, The Ca$h Memorial Show held on the afternoon of September 12th saw Drew Gulak and Tyler Veritas win first round matches in the Wired TV title tournament and the Ca$h Memorial Battle Royal was won by Nate Hatred. B-Boy became the number one challenger to the CZW World Heavyweight title when he beat Scotty Vortekz and Devon Moore at 'Down With the Sickness' held in the evening He gets his title shot at 'Severed Ties' due to be held on October 10th at the Arena in South Philadelphia. Drew Blood won the Junior Heavyweight title when he beat Ego Fantastico thanks to interference by Devon Moore but The Best Around are still tag champs after a win over Adam Cole and Tyler Veritas.

Also confirmed for that card is Ego Fantastico taking on Devon Moore and a Fans Bring The Weapons match it's the team of Jon Moxley, Nick Gage and Nate Hatred against DJ Hyde, Scotty Vortekz and xOMGx.

The Tournament of Death 8.5 has been confirmed for October 24th with first round matches seeing Thumbtack Jack take on Jon Moxley, Masada faces the returning Brain Damage and new owner of CZW DJ Hyde takes on the former owner John Zandig. Full details at www.czwrestling.co.uk

WIN A BLU-RAY PLAYER

'12 Rounds' starring WWE Champion John Cena is released on DVD on October 12th but in the meantime why not face your own challenge at www.bragster.com?

Ego is everything on Bragster, which has been branded as the social network site for dares. Currently at the website you can take part in a special challenge where you have to complete 12 tasks and you can record yourself making the attempt. The person who sends in the best entry wins the challenge and a Blu-ray player and Blu-Ray copy of '12 Rounds.'

'12 Rounds' follows Danny Fisher (John Cena) who, after he stops a brilliant thief from getting away with a multi-million dollar heist, is set a series of near-impossible puzzles and tasks which he must complete in order to save the life of his fiancé.

AROUND THE HALLS

| By STEVE ASHFIELD (News Editor) - mageditoruk@googlemail.com |

British News

Rob Van Dam is on his way to 1PW for the Fourth Anniversary Show due to take place at the Doncaster Dome on November 15th. Teddy Hart was also due to be appearing but AAA in Mexico have pulled the plug on that deal but Jimmy Jacobs, Davey Richards and Roderick Strong are on their way to Doncaster for the anniversary show.
The 1PW World Heavyweight title will be on the line in a Double Jeopardy match featuring defending champion Martin Stone, Sterling James Keenan, Ulf Hermann and Steve Corino. This unique format sees Wrestler A face Wrestler B and Wrestler C face Wrestler D with the two winners meeting for the title but both matches take place at the same time. More details on the pairings soon at www.1pwonline.com The Prophets of Liberty take on Ruffneck and Iceman in a three on two Survival of the Sickest rules match. WWE bound Nigel McGuinness has vacated the 1PW Openweight title. Before the anniversary show Pro Wrestling 101 will be holding an afternoon show 'A Perfect Twist of Fate' with Steve Corino facing Martin Kirby and a Defying Gravity match plus Lionheart facing an overseas opponent. Before the Anniversary show, 'Criminal Intentions' takes place at the Greyhound Social Club in Ellesmere Port on October 18th with Kevin Thorn taking on Kris Travis.

More World Title qualifiers for the FWA World Heavyweight title tournament were held at 'Revolution Begins' held in Bridport on September 26th.
Andrew Simmons beat Nick Griffin and Jonny Storm defeated Rockstar Spud. The first round of the FWA World Heavyweight title tournament was held at 'Carpe Diem' on October 3rd at the Broxbourne Civic Centre. Martin Stone beat Lionheart and Johnny Midnight, Johnny Moss (who won the Unsigned Rumble held earlier that afternoon) beat Dave Rayne, Bubblegum got a count out win over Joel Redman and Andrew Simmons beat Jonny Storm. The semi-finals see Stone face Moss and it's Bubblegum v Simmons. They take place at 'Hotwired' due to take place at Nottingham Sport City on November 29th. More information at www.fwauk.com

If you want to see Dragon Gate Invasion:UK on November 1st at The Regal in Oxford then you need to get your tickets pretty quick as the show looks certain to sell out pretty soon.
The main event has been confirmed and it sees CIMA/Young Bucks take on Pac/Naruki Doi/BxB Hulk, Susumu Yokosuka is up against Shingo, it's Dragon Kid v Masato Yoshino, Mark Haskins face Kagetora, Marty Scurll and Jonny Storm take on Genki Horiguchi and Ryo Saito and the dark match sees Stixx take on Lion Kid. The main event was due to be announced on

September 26th and also due to appear are Cima, Naruki Doi, Pac, Kamakazi, Shingo and The Young Bucks Tickets can be booked online at www.dragongateuk.com

It's been a big week in September for 3CW with two major shows being held. Cameron Kraze won the Lord of the Ring tournament held at the Southlands Centre in Middlesbrough on September 18th beating Chris Whitton in the final.
'Darkest Deeds VI' took place at the Billingham Synthonia. The night certainly proved to be one full of shocks starting with the news that Darkside had been stripped of his 3CW title and a 20-man Rumble would be held to crown a new champion. It looked as if Cameron Kraze had won the match to regain the title but then the 20th wrestler came to the ring and it was the returning El Ligero who appeared and won the title. 3CW make their debut in Scotland on October 16th when they hold 'International Wrestling Classic' at the Theatre Royal in Dumfries. The main event sees Darkside defend his 3CW title against Johnny Moss and this will also be for the Caledonian Cup. More info at www.3countwrestling.co.uk

Robbie Brookside is back in the ring and that means bad news for Rampage Brown the current ASW Superslam Heavweight Champion.
Brown won the title earlier this year in Hanley after Brookside was forced to vacate the belt due to knee surgery. Now he's back he's determined to regain his title. Gladiator Goliath gets a shot at the title in Hanley on October 31st and currently on tour are Ricky Steamboat Jr and Tatanka arrives later this month.

All-Star continue to put on more shows than any other company in the UK and aside from the Butlins shows in Skegness (Tuesdays/Saturdays), Minehead (Wednesday/Saturday) and Bognor Regis (Thursday/Saturday) they return to halls all over the country.
October sees them in Fareham (11th), Cannock (13th), Folkestone (16th), Liverpool (18th), Dunstable (25th), Aylesbury (26th), Leamington (27th), Skegness (28th), Gravesend and Aldershot (29th), Hull (30th) and Hanley (31st). Full details at www.bigtimewrestlinguk.com

GPW hold their Crazy Cruiser 8 tournament on November 13th and at the Monaco Ballroom in Wigan on September 18th, Ricky J McKenzie secured his place winning a four-way match.
Also confirmed for the tournament are Bubblegum, Joey Hayes and CJ Banks plus an international entrant and the winner of next months Battle Royal. Banks might not take part though as he's put his place on the line in a

DDL vs Dirk Feelgood. Tony Knox - **www.tonyknox.org.uk**

match against GPW British Champion Sam Bailey next month. DDL is the new number one challenger to the GPW title held by The Juggernaught after he beat Dirk Feelgood. Luke Marsden still hasn't given Martin Kirby his £10,000 and set Kirby up in a four-on-one handicap match against The Eastern Bloc which he managed to not just survive but win. The next show is at the Monaco Ballroom in Wigan on October 16th with more CC8 qualifying matches and that Bailey v Banks showdown. more info at www.gpwrestling.org.uk

Scottish wrestling seems to be on the up and PBW hold their biggest show of the year when 'Maximum Impact' takes place at the Magnum Centre in Irvine on October 17th.
Lionheart (fresh from defending his title against Brad Fusion) puts his PBW Heavyweight title on the line against Martin Stone and it's the King of the Cruisers 2009 match with Bubblegum, BT Gunn, the debuting Joey Hayes and Bingo Balance. Carmel and Sara face Nikki Storm and Roxi. Former WWE star Kevin Thorn makes his debut for the company and faces Darkside More information at www.pbwwrestling.com

SWA held their biggest show of the year on September 19th when 'The Gathering III' took place at the Kelvin Hall International Sports Arena in Glasgow on September and it proved to be a great night for 'The Butcher' Scott Renwick.
He won the Money in the Bank Ladder match, cashed in his title shot and then beat defending champion Lionheart and Wolfgang to win the NWA Scottish Heavyweight title. Also on the card Damien O'Connor beat Chris Renfrew to win the Laird of the Ring title. Aftermath' takes place at the Clydebank Town Hall on October 10th with Renwick defending his title against Darkside, Falcon and Black Samurai Jnr challenge STI for the tag belts and Damian O'Connor puts his Laird of the Ring title on the line against Wolfgang. More info at www.scottishwrestling.co.uk

***All Action Wrestling* present shows up and down the country over the next couple of months. There's a show at the Saxon Suite in Daventry on October 18th with Andy Boy Simmonz facing Bad News Brown, it's Mark Sloan v Dynamo and James Mason taking on Mark Haskins.**
That's followed by shows in Middlesbrough (October 30th), Stanley (November 1st) and Crewe (November 8th). More information at www.allactionwrestling.co.uk

***Sebastian Winterz* is still the BPW World Catchweight Champion after he beat Andy Baker to retain his title in Silverdale on September 4th.**
On the same card 'The G-Man' Simpn Gaytley won the Michael Barrs Memorial Cup Rumble match. A week later in Crosby, Winterz beat Sean Phoenix on a card that included several RWA wrestlers after a recent working agreement was made between the companies. Their next show is 'Cruel Intentions' at the Acton Community Centre in Wrexham on November 7th and features the Sure Shot Challenge as Gaytley faces an opponent chosen by the GWP GM with the winner getting a title shot. More info at www.britanniawrestling.co.uk

***EWW* return to action on October 23rd with a show at the Kings Hall in Herne Bay starting at 7.30pm. More details soon at the currently being revamped website www.eww-wrestling.co.uk**

Looks like the Ritchie family are in control in LDN as Jon Ritchie is still LDN British Heavyweight Champion seeing off challengers such as Johnny Kidd who he recently beat in Bournemouth and Joel Ritchie is the new LDN Academy Champion after defeating Wolf Alexander.
October is another busy month for LDN with shows in Exeter (7th), Ventnor (9th), Totteridge (10th with the Lord of London Tournament), Christchurch (14th), Enfield (17th), Chingford (19th), Port Talbot (22nd), Margate (25th) and Abadare (26th). Travis recently won the LDN Capital title, 'Legends Showdown' takes place at the Wolsey Hall in Cheshunt on November 21st with Johnny Saint taking on Mal Sanders. More information at www.ldnwrestling.com

***SLAM Wrestling* returned to action on Friday October 2nd with a show at the Bonnington Theatre in Arnold with Johnny Storm and the Fast and the Fearless beating Stixx and the Bollywood Express in the main event.**
More info at www.slamwrestlinguk.com

***Martin Kirby* is a man on a mission in DPW and he's determined to win the Mansonweight title and then retire it. Heaven knows what could happen on the rescheduled show that now takes place on December 5th at the Ackroyd Street Working Men's Club as he takes on Voodoo with the winner becoming number one challenger to the Mansonweight title with Mad Man Manson himself as the guest referee.**
More info at www.leedswrestling.co.uk and www.dpwrestling.co.uk

***FutureShock Wrestling* celebrated their fifth anniversary in Stockport on August 16th but all didn't go too well as Alex Shane turned on Dave Rayne and formed 'The Hierarchy' and he's already recruited Stixx, Dave Breaks, Dom Travis and Clinton Steele.**

Tony Knox - www.tomyknox.org.uk
Alex Shane.

The 4th Annual FutureShock Trophy got underway in Swinton on September 13th with Raynaldo, Stixx, The Nordic Warrior and Sparx getting wins in the first round. On the same card Sam Bailey retained his FutureShock title despite a DQ loss to Chris Egan. The next show is on October 13th at the Morton Jubilee Hall in Macclesfield with the semi-finals of the FutureShock Trophy taking place as Raynaldo faces Nordic Warrior and Sparx takes on Stixx More info at www.futureshockwrestling.co.uk

The feud between GNP Heavyweight Champion Rainz and Prince Mohmed Ameen continues.
At 'Fresh Blood' held on September 4th Ameen put Rainz in a Gauntlet match but the champion defeated Surf Grafitti, Jester, Shinazki the Ninja and Danny Rio only to get attacked by Rio and Ameen after the match with Ameen throwing fire in his face.

It's been one hell of a month for Pauly C in IWF. He won the IWF title at the 9th Anniversary show held on September 11th when he beat defending champion Assassin and former champion Adam Christ. Eight days later he asserted his authority by winning the rematch only to be attacked by Christ after the match before Robbie Ryder made the save.
The Northeast and tag titles also changed hands at the Anniversary show with RD Wood and Order 66 winning the belts. Pauly C defends his title against Lewis Beardsley on October 10th at the New Deleval and Newsham Club in Blyth. More information at www.sensationaliwf.piczo.com

Dave Rayne gets a shot at the NGW title at 'Collision Course' due now to be held at the Eastmount Recreation Centre in Hull on October 17th.
Rayne will have Alex Shane in his corner, more info at www.hullwrestling.com

Pro Wrestling 101 made their debut on September 19th with 'Brave New World' held at the Top Club in Edlington, Doncaster with Martin Kirby getting a shock win over Martin Stone to set up a match with Steve Corino at the afternoon show being held on November 15th.
Kirby may have more to worry about though when it comes to his tag partner Kris Travis who attacked him after the match against Stone before Greg Burridge made the save. Also making an impact was the soon to return to the ring El Ligero who attacked both Terry Frazier and Joey Hayes after their match. There's also an event at the Top Club in Edlington on November 14th including a Q&A session with Steve Corino and a four-match card. More information at www.prowrestling101.co.uk

New RWA tag champions will be crowned on October 17th when the company hold 'All Hallows Brawl' at the Grangeway Community Centre in Runcorn.
The A-List face Runcorn's Own in the final of the tag title tournament.

TTP may be no more come mid-October. Team TTP take on Team SWA on October 17th at the Harraby Community Centre in Carlisle and if they lose then they'll cease to exist.

Former WWE star Kevin Thorn became the first ever UKW Champion when he defeated Dylan Roberts in the final of an eight-man tournament held at 'Road To The Gold 2009' at the Ossett Town Hall on August 23rd.
The same show saw The Impact Express crowned the first UKW tag champions. More info at www.ukwrestlingexperience.co.uk

Perhaps the biggest shock of the month was Rockstar Spud defeating Sam Slam to add the XWA British Heavyweight title to the Flyweight title he already held.
Spud didn't quite manage it on his own though in the title match held at 'Last Fight at the Prom' at the Morecambe Dome on September 12th. Interference by Stallion (Head of XWA Security) and the debuting Juggernaught clinched the win for Spud. Also on the card Joey Hayes beat Marty Scurll and Stixx defeated Declan O'Connor in the Championship Chase tournament, they'll meet each other at 'Gold Rush' on January 30th with the winner getting a shot at the Heavyweight title. Johnny Phere is finally back in British wrestling after he beat Deadly Serious in a handicap match, Greg Lambert wasn't too pleased about that!
Spud makes the first defence of his title when XWA hold 'Battle of Britain' at the Delphi Club in Sudbury on October 24th and he has to face not just former champion Sam Slam but another opponent too with the fans asked to make suggestions after The Zebra Kid pulled out with an injury.. Also on the card Johnny Phere

Tony Knox - www.tonyknox.org.uk
Rockstar Spud.

has an open challenge and it's Marty Scurll v Terry Frazier. More information at www.xwawrestling.com Spud is also still the AWW Champion after beating MK Mikinan in Walsall on September 18th More info at www.alternativewrestling.tv

Team H8 are still FCW tag team champions after a successful defence against The Bouncer and Marty Scurll in Baggeridge on September 27th. More information at www.futurewrestling.co.uk

Triple X were in action at the Jolly Beggar Club in Coventry on October 4th.
The Tartan Army beat Leaders of the New School and Falcon, Devilman beat Stixx and Nikki Storm defeated Jetta. Conscience was announced as the new owner of the company and forced former owner Quentin Hyde-Styles to tag with Tezz losing to Twizted Toybox.

Live American Wrestling hold their biggest show to date on October 17th when they're at the Sixways Rugby Club in Worcester. Danny 'Boy' Collins faces Mad Dog Maxx, in a traditional British rules match it's Johnny Saint v Johnny Kidd, Drew McDonald takes on Mr #1 Jonny Rose.
'Rampage' Brown faces Mandrake and Julio Torres takes on Andy 'Boy' Simmonz. Doors open at 7pm with the show starting at 7.30pm with tickets costing £10. For more information email liveamericanwrestling@yahoo.com

Mad Dog Maxx retained his Great British Wrestling Heavyweight title on a Live Wrestling show held at the Darlaston All Active Club on September 18th when he defeated Mat Mensa.
The pair meet again in a Dog Collar match at the same venue on December 18th.

NRW return to action with a show at the West Park Leisure Centre in Long Eaton on October 10th with Joseph Conners taking on J-Techno in a Hardcore Street Fight.
Triple X hold 'Summerfest' at the Jolly Beggar in Coventry on October 4th with the Tartan Army (Triple X Champion Adam Shame and BMW) facing Falcon, Zack Sabre Jr, and Jimmy Havoc. The feud between Jetta and Nikki Storm continues with a Falls Count Anywhere match Doors open at 5.30pm for a 6.30pm start and tickets cost £6 on the door.

Macmillan-Mania II is being held by the Warwickshire Wrestling Alliance on November 7th at the AT7 Centre in Coventry and will raise money for MacMillan Cancer Support.
Co-promoter Nick Sharma said, "This will be a great night out for the whole family – and at a price that won't break the budget – everyone benefits, especially Macmillan Cancer Support" Tickets cost just £6 for adults and £4 for children and can be booked on **07811 117731** or go to www.warwickshirewrestling.co.uk

Britani Knight became the first ever HEW Women's Champion when she beat her mother Sweet Saraya at 'Towerlands Inferno' held in Braintree on August 22nd. Knight made a successful first defence of her title on September 26th beating Faith Lehaine.
Kharisma was named as the new HEW Commissioner and set up Britani v Faith v Sweet Saraya for November 13th in Braintree. Before that the next show is on October 24th in Bishops Stortford with Brett Meadows and Britani Knight taking on Faith Lehaine and The Zebra Kid plus Mad Man Manson makes his debut. All tickets are £8 each. More info at www.hewwrestling.com.

Britani Knight. Tony Knox - **www.tonyknox.org.uk**

***ACW** hold 'High Spirits V' on October 24th at the Luton Regional Centre with The Rainbow Kid facing Mr E. for the vacant Light Heavyweight title.*
More info at www.acwrestling.co.uk

***BAWA** held one of their biggest shows of the year at the North Oxfordshire Academy in Banbury on October 4th.*
Marty Scurl beat Zack Sabre Jr. and Chris Walker and Cash Calloway won the DVD title. For more information or go to www.bawa-online.co.uk

Greg Cortez defends his BECW title against Jack Joker at 'Autumn Conflict' due to be held at the Waltham Abbey Town Hall on October 10th, more info at www.facebook.com/l/;www.becw.co.uk

Ant Lacayo unified the EWF British title and the No Limits belt when he beat Will Davison at 'Summer Showdown' held in Portsmouth on August 7th.
On the same card Dave Crespin beat Jake McCluskey to win the Dynamite Division Trophy.

VPW return to action in October with shows at the Exter Corn Exchange (25th), Winchester Guildhall (26th) and Portsmouth Guildhall (28th). Hardcore Holly and BG James are both confirmed.
A new Commissioner to be announced at the show to be held at the Portsmouth Guildhall on the 28th. No name confirmed yet but the commissioner has wrestled Hulk Hogan. Whoever it is will have to deal with The UK Kid and Hardcore Holly especially the former WWE star who turned heel on the last tour when he attacked Chris Andrews.

More about VPW at their recently revamped website,www.varsityprowrestling.com

Team South beat Team North at the Hayling Island Wrestling 2nd Anniversary show held on August 22nd.
On the same show Dan Head beat Bellinger to win the HIW title and force his opponent to retire. The next show is 'Christmas Rumble' at the Hayling Island Community Centre on December 5th, more info at www.haylingwrestling.org.uk

In IPW:UK Jimmy Havoc won the Hardcore Lottery held at the Tap 'N Tin in Chatham on September 10th beating Jon Ryan in the final.
The fifth anniversary show was held later that week in Sittingbourne with Leroy Kincaide beating Alex Shane to unify the IPW:UK and All-England titles. Also on that card The Leaders of the New School beat The Thrillers in a TLC match to retain their tag belts. The next show is 'Make or Break' at the White Oaks Leisure Centre in Swanley on October 10th with Martin Stone facing Dave Taylor. Whoever wins gets a IPW:UK title shot on December 12th with the loser being unable to wrestle in Swanley for the next few months. Mark Haskins defends his cruiserweight title against The British Eagle in a title v career match Sabian and Ruckus have also been confirmed for the 'Brawl At the Hall' show in Sittingbourne on November 22nd. More info at www.ipwuk.com

The feud between The Dominator and Kerry Cabrero continues in NCW:UK.
Dominator and Skarlett beat Cabrero and Lilah Vanderbell in Tonbridge on August 22nd and on September 26th it was due to be Dominator beat Cabrero in a Falls Count Anywhere match, more info at www.myspace.com/ncwrestlinguk

Marcus Brash is still the PLEX Wrestling Champion after he defeated none other than Johnny Saint in Surrey on September 18th.
He'll face another British legend later in the year after Mal Sanders beat James Mason to become number one challenger to the title. The next show is 'Rock N Wrestling' at the Connaught School in Aldershot on December 6th.

In Premier Promotions Mark Haskins won the Ian Dowland Trophy in Worthing on August 20th beating Dan Head and then Wade Fitzgerald.
The following week it was the Worthing Trophy with Jon Ryan defeating Zack Sabre Jnr, and Eamonn O'Neill to win the Trophy for the first time. For more info call the Premier Wrestling Line on **09068 800 669**.

D-Mon won the PTW Cruiserweight title when he defeated Scott Annette at the Grampian Club in Corby on September 6th.

The company recently announced an advertising deal with three Luton newspapers (Herald and Post, Luton News and Dunstable Gazette) who'll now sponsor all their shows at Luton. PTW now have a full-time home at the and held their first show there on September 26th with Conor Hurley beating Mason Storm to retain his PTW World Heavyweight title. The final show of the year is at the same venue on November 28th with Dan Edge facing Petey Staniforth You can see Sean Midnight on 'See Hear' on BBC2 on October 21st at 1pm. More information at www.powertripwrestling.co.uk

Who's the champion in Riot Act Wrestling? Well, no one because after Vanity Express beat Edgar Stryfe and Psycho Steve on September 12th all the titles in the company have been terminated.
The RAW League has also been suspended till the new year with Edgar Stryfe confirmed as the winner. More info at www.riotactwrestling.co.uk

Chaos won the RDW King of the Castle Tournament held at the Suncastle in Skegness on August 30th.
The final was a fatal four-way that also included RDW British Heavyweight Champion Prince Ameen, Robbie X and Chaos. Ameen's title was on the line for the first fall of the match but he pinned Chaos to end the summer season as champion before getting pinned by Chaos to prevent him adding the King of the Castle tournament to his British title. RDW return to South Yorkshire for the first time in three years when they hold a card at the Empress Ballrooms in Mexborough on October 10th with Prince Ameen facing Sam Slam and RDW Tag team champions Nathan Cruz and Ewan Kennedy defend their titles in a Gauntlet match against Pryde, The British Bladerunners, Project Ego and Teeny and Tiny. Prior to the show there's a Fan Slam with Scott Hall, Dawn Marie and Tammy 'Sunny' Sytch in association with 1PW. More info about future shows at www.realdealpromotions.co.uk

The Zebra Kid retained his WAW World Heavyweight title with a win over Christian Eckstein in Great Yarmouth on August 31st.
Britani Knight won the WAW British Ladies title from Sweet Saraya on that August 31st show after interference by Sam Knee. The Atlantis Cup tournament was won by 'Delicious' Danny Blaze who beat Sam Slam in the final on September 6th. 'October Outrage XI' takes place at The Talk in Norwich on October 25th with The Zebra Kid again defending his World title with a future defence against his father Ricky Knight looking more and more likely at the end of the year with Ricky retiring if he loses. One title match confirmed for the show is Phil Powers taking on Zak Zodiac for the Light Heavyweight title. WAW have announced they'll be at the Pontefract Town Hall on November 14th with Zak Zodiac facing El Ligero. More info at www.wawuk.net

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Canno Tangoe won the CSF All Nations Light Heavyweight title in September defeating Alex Steele.
Gideon is still Heavyweight champion with recent defences against Jeckle and Dave Mercy. Tangoe faces Lee Class on October 17th at the Winter Gardens in Weston-Super-Mare in a Loser leaves Weston ladder match. 'Total Elimination XI' takes place at the Yate Leisure Centre on November 14th, more info at www.csfwrestling.co.uk

4FW hold their Halloween Spectacular at the Grange Drive Leisure Centre in Swindon on October 31st with a Battle Royal confirmed.
More info at www.4fw-online.com

DWA hold their second show on October 25th at the Carlton Theatre in Teignmouth with the DWA Wrestling Trophy taking place. Joel Redman faces Dan Head and it's 'Gentleman' Gilligan Gordon v Chris Andrews.
Tickets are available on **01626 778 991**.

Pro-Ev Wrestling are at the Wheatpieces Community Centre in Tewksbury on the 10th.
More info at www.proevwrestling.com.

Christian Eckstein returns to the UK on October 24th (see interview on page 40) when he defends his European Heavyweight title against Danny 'Boy' Collins at the Superstars of Wrestling American Wrestling Rampage show.
Also at the G1 Gloucester Leisure Centre the Liverpool Lads Robbie Brookside and Frankie Sloane face Drew McDonald and Kris Kay. Johnny Kidd takes on Matt Jarrett and Steve Morocco is up against Joel Redman. Tickets can be booked on **01452 396699**.

Gangster won the UCW World title when he beat Hubert on September 12th and Sam Collins won the vacant British title.
He defeated Gilligan Gordon after Dave Moralez had to vacate the title due to injury.

Wrestling in Plymouth hold the Halloween Payback Show at the Plymouth Guildhall on October 27th.
Steenie defends his PWA Shield in a Halloween Battle Royal, More information at www.wrestlinginplymouth.com

Thomas Bassey retained his Celtic Wrestling title at 'Highway to Hell' on September 10th avoiding defeat in a tag match against Chris Recall and Deathrow.
'Celtic Havoc' takes place at the Gurnos Social Club in Merthyr Tydfil on October 28th with Bassey defending his title against Chris Recall in a Street Fight and Mike Bird challenges Kade Callous for his Interactive title. More info at www.celtic-wrestling.co.uk

Pro Power Wrestling start their Welsh Heavyweight title tournament on October 16th at the Congress Theatre in Cwmbran with the tournament concluding on the 20th at the Dolman Theatre in Newport.
Kade Callous, Joel Redman and Danny Garnell have been confirmed to take part, more info at www.propowerwrestling.co.uk

Darkside retained his BCW Heavyweight title with a win over Joel Redman at 'Hungry For Blood' held in Kilmarnock on September 25th.
Also on the card Lionheart beat Naom Darr and Iceman made his final appearance in Scotland defeating Highlander. The next show is on October 24th at the Ballerup Hall, East Kilbride with Doug Williams confirmed to appear. 'No Blood, No Sympathy VII' is confirmed for the Kilmarnock Grand Hall on December 5th.

In SWE, 'Hell for Lycra VI' took place at the Perth Concert Hall on August 21st 'Tenacious' Johnny Lions retained his SWE title despite a DQ loss to Rory McAllister but the tag titleschanged hands when The Flying Scotsmen beat Sterling Oil by submission in a match that saw 'The Million Dollar Man' Ted DiBiase put his 'Million Dollar Dream' hold on the manager of Sterling Oil.
More info at www.sweonline.co.uk

Mike Musso is the new W3L Heavyweight Champion after he beat David Paris to win the title at 'Wrestlution III' held at the Albert Halls in Stirling on September 25th.
There's new tag champs too as Disco Biscuits beat the Soviet Wrecking Crew but Sara retained her Women's title with a win over Nikki Storm. More details at www.w3lwrestling.com

NOW hold their next show on October 3rd at the Kempsthorn Neighbourhood Centre in Pollok, Glasgow with Scott Renwick, Mark Stevens, Damian O'Connor and Team Hawaii due to appear.

Wrestlezone's next show is at the Northern Hotel in Aberdeen on October 16th with Lionheart challenging Scotty Swift for the Wrestlezone Heavyweight title.

VINCE: WITHOUT HONOR?

| By DUSTY WOLFE - dwolfe414@msn.com |

Dusty is a 20+ year veteran of the squared circle, six of those years being with the WWF and the remainder with promotions from all over the world !

Dusty's title history

- South American Heavyweight title;
- South African Heavyweight title;
- United States Tag Team titles w/Tim Horner;
- Mid South Heavyweight title (indy version);
- PWI (San Antonio) United States Heavyweight title;
- WCCW Heavyweight title (90s Arkansas version);
- WWC World Tag Team titles w/Mohammed Hussein;
- WWC Carribbean Tag Team titles w/Galan Mendoza;
- NWA-SW Television title;
- CWF (New Orleans) Heavyweight title;
- IWF (South Texas/Mexico) Heavyweight title;
- FWF (Belgium) Tag Team titles w/Rob Raw defeating Gabriel Angelfire & Dr. Gangreen

info from www.obsessedwithwrestling.com

There were a few suggestions for this month's column. The two that stood out to me where Dixie Carters comments on the current affairs over at TNA. And the RoH situation. Thought I would touch on these in my own, sweet, understanding manner.

Think I'll start with the latter. So many are talking here in the states about what a horrible human being Vince McMahon is for "raiding" the RoH roster. Really seems to me one question should be obvious...how does Vince raid a roster he helps support? A quick history of RoH...I won't go into how and why they were established. Those facts might turn you off from RoH. Personnally, I'm amazed they are still here after everything that happened in the past. Somewhere in the past few years, RoH has gained a niche in the world of wrestling. I have never been a fan of RoH. I don't like their style, and I detest how they were formed. Neither of those facts take away from some of the tremendous talent they have helped break out. And none of this escaped Vince McMahon. I have no idea when, but Vince "crawled in bed" with RoH. I have listened to others say otherwise. And I ask them these questions...***could you or anyone else book a building next to Wrestlemania? The day before Wrestlemania, without Vince's cooperation?*** To a man, they agree Vince McMahon was involved. And he has been for a time now. Vince treats TNA as his rehab center/faux competition. And RoH is his new farm system. Taking the top talent as they go onto a bigger and better TV deal. That one is very easy. Vince McMahon is reminding RoH, and the rest of the wrestling world, just who is the real boss. RoH would not be were they are at today without Vince McMahon. And like anyone that takes a favor, payment will come due.

I find the Dixie Carter comments highly amusing. She is correct about the monthly PPV's. TNA, WWE, and anyone else putting on a monthly PPV hurts themselves and wrestling. Her wealth of knowledge on that subject is not based on wrestling business experience. My 13 year son is smarter to wrestling than Dixie Carter and her "friend" Vince Russo. These PPV comments are based on the bottom line. Dixie Carter's daddy didn't get rich if he wasn't smart to the bottom line of a company. And looking at the parent company, it would seem Dixie Carter learned something about making money. Fewer PPV's....I see that as a win-win situation for TNA. No other way around it. Will their MMA approach to the business pay off? Maybe two years ago. Unlikely, but maybe. Today. NO. The MMA bubble is about to burst. MMA is on the verge of being exposed, and when that happens, MMA is done. MMA fans are arrogant when the subject of pro wrestling comes up. And the fans that cross over know the difference. Trying to use MMA as a difference in TNA is just another desperate attempt by those that blind being led by the blind.

Journal of a Journeyman by Dusty Wolfe. Available on Amazon or **rasslinriotonline.com**

INNOVATING DREAMING

By PWPFROG - froggyllc@aol.com

When I initially began 'dreaming' this article a while back it was filled with loathing and regret. You see, I had been a huge fan of Tommy Dreamer for such a long time and believed he stood for everything that fans loved about wrestling. To me and many others he was ECW. Of course that is the ECW of old I refer to. There was something about him that just captured the emotions and enthusiasm of fans both at the arena and at home, it transcended across in so many ways.

Just thinking about his matches and antics in the former ECW, oh my! Singapore Cane Matches with The Sandman, piledriving Beulah, his endless and timeless feud with Raven. The feud with Raven was one of the most special memories for me with ECW. I mean, this feud just ran and ran as if it was never going to end, and for once I was glad. Normally feuds get boring real quick these days, but this one I would be happy to still be watching today. The only other feud I've enjoyed as much in recent years would be MVP vs. Matt Hardy if I'm to try and pinpoint one.

As for the current ECW, I don't have that much time I'm afraid and have barely tuned in since its commencement. It comes across as nothing more than a time filler. I would rather that McMahon had just done away with it completely than try and carry on with it in it's present state.

Unfortunately for me, I did watch an episode recently. I saw Tommy Dreamer coming running out to the ring and all I could think was "Why Tommy, why?"

Tommy is on a crusade to keep the old vision of ECW alive all by himself and it is excruciatingly painful to watch. His entrance music is almost identical to the Alice in Chains song he used to use which we all loved. He's even kept the whole "I want to be Champion" gimmick going.

But why? The show may be called ECW but it will never be ECW, no matter how hard anyone tries.

Tommy is the only original wrestler from the initial ECW in this new brand. It's like calling your band Guns N'Roses when you only have the lead singer from the original and much loved line up. But how can he try and keep the memory alive when there is no Raven, no RVD, no Tazz or Sandman, no Joey Styles for crying out loud!

So I sat there thinking like KC and the Sunshine Band sang "Na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na, na, Baby give it up, Give it up, Baby give it up."

Which is how I got to sitting in front of the computer monitor today typing this.

But then something strange happened. I begun to look for articles on Tommy just to try and give him one last chance and lo and behold he did it, the old Dreamer shone through at me again!

Confused? You should be, I live in a permanently confused state of mind (by choice that is).

You see, Tommy Dreamer had recently had an interview with the wrestling pages of the Daily Star newspaper where they too had insinuated that the WWE version of ECW had a "new training ground feel" and how did he feel about that. His response was right on the mark. He replied that no one was more of a fan of the old ECW than he was and that it was a place where unknown guys got noticed and legends of the sport came to "recharge their careers." He concluded that this is what the new ECW was also all about. It was not about him being kept in the spotlight or trying to keep hold of former glory at all.

That just made me feel about five inches tall. Why? Because I had doubted him, the man I credit with being the fans wrestler, the man who poured his heart and soul into doing what he loves the best, just as much as we fans love to watch, I felt he had turned himself into a cartoon version of Tommy Dreamer. Yet he hadn't. I may still think at the back of my mind he sold out by signing with WWE, but hey, the guy's got a family to feed. Plus, if he wasn't there, who would the guys have to look upto in the locker room at ECW?

To make matters worse I stumbled across Tommy's blog on WWE.COM, his "An Original Thought" column. I'll be truthful, I've no idea if this is Tommy writing or just a script writer. If it is a script writer then they've done a hell of a job getting into Tommy's frame of mind. In one blog 'he' states that as a fan he will do his best to put on a match for all the fans to enjoy. He also goes on to say he will put on his original ECW boots and go out to the ring to represent the old and the new versions of ECW with pride and honour.

AS A FAN HE WILL DO HIS BEST TO PUT ON A MATCH FOR ALL THE FANS TO ENJOY

That's my boy Tommy, that's my boy. You can take the man out of ECW but you cannot take ECW out of the man.

I've heard it said time and time again that fans today are not what they used to be. The internet is partly to blame, too many people have an opinion and have ways to get their opinions across. It's not just about getting together to watch the shows and PPV's anymore, not about taking it for what it is, sports entertainment as they like to call it. No, people want to jump on the bandwagon loving so and so and hating another wrestler. It's all about gimmicks and merchandising and trying to predict what the next weeks storylines is going to be and who's faking what. Well how about this for an opinion…it's all about the wrestling. Living, breathing, eating and sleeping wrestling. Like guys such as Tommy Dreamer do. Tommy, I'm sorry I doubted you. You will always be ECW and you will always be a fans wrestler. For those of us who will never get inside the squared circle, we live our dreams through you. Thank you Tommy.

Turning That Frown Upside Down

By THE CYNIC - hearditallbefore@hotmail.com

Your big-pub shareholder starts a secret relationship with the ex-wife of your marquee player. Your marquee player is arrested for issues with his girlfriend. Your marquee player then has to account for drugs found at the scene. Your high-profile Cruiser is arrested for a DUI. Your shareholder moves the marquee player's ex-wife into his house. Your colour man is suddenly replaced by a talent who can barely pronounce his own name.

For a burgeoning company like TNA, it's not been the best of times. Not in the realms of graves opening up and lions walking through the marketplace, but pretty challenging all the same. It's Shakespeare, bozos, from "Julius Caesar". Alright then, I'll give you something closer to your level. See Spot chase the ball. See Spot catch the ball. See Spot explode in a shower of glistening hot meat as he discovers the ball is, in fact, a grenade. Ah, *now* you see.

A major shareholder and creator of the Fed involved in a messy shitting-doorstep interface. The face of the company with seemingly emotional, health and social issues. The company worker/workhorse of the future showing irresponsibility so early in his comeback. Plus a moribund weekly TV product and static figures. For a burgeoning company, all of these could have produced a punch that buckled the legs for months to come.

But it didn't. Instead, it became the slap round the face they needed. And they should take credit for this. Particularly Dixie Carter. Read that again, because you won't find many writing that this week, month or year. Ms Carter may have made some silly statements - the recent one, about TNA doubling WWE's viewer figures in Britain is a prime example, particularly as whilst people were snorting derisively, they missed the fact that TNA HAD surpassed WWE's figures, just as much as she said - but she has managed the recent traumas well and made improvements too.

Now, I know how things can change; after all, I was once a humble admin officer and now I'm at the heart of the political machine. But over the last two weeks Impact, a programme chock full of meaningless matches, ridiculous skits and legends prepared to sell their reputations for a bit of pretty green, has actually been quite exciting.

Not amazing. Not wonderful. Not stupendous. But not execrable either. And it had been. So this is a leap of Neil Armstrong proportions. Impact now has an ounce of excitement and a morsel of meaning. It looks like management are beginning to get it.

And what are the ingredients of this commendable concoction?

Taz(z): This is a shock. Let's be clear; if Don West was just shunted out of his chair, with no real preparation and understanding, it's an outrage and as for management - may the fleas of a thousand camels infest their armpits. If it happened that way. I suppose they at least found him another job.

But Taz(z)! He was a charisma black hole in the WW(F)E, slumped next to Cole, making fatuous comments which seemed to have been dragged from his larynx. Teaming up with Tenay, the laughalot Wrestling Professor, might have been the prescription for a dour, lifeless natter. But the Tazzmaniac is a man re-energised. He's come off his high status attitude and sounds like he's enjoying himself. OK, his crack about Don West giving him a piece of merch was in bad taste, particularly as most of the merch is

bigger than he is, but at least he's having a go. Never thought I'd see Taz(z) cracking jokes, that's up there with HHH getting a sinus wash. And what's more, he's brought excitement. He doesn't shout, like West, but his enjoyment is infectious. And it works because he enjoys the wrestlers, not the angles; the worth is in the grappling, not the characters. That's what people want to see.

Not So Much Foley: I like Mick, as much as you can like anyone who's middle name is "schill". Like Flair though, every time he steps through those ropes, he whips his Johnson out and piddles all over his legacy. What's more disturbing, the stick shtick he could always rely on has deserted him, becoming lazy and full of insider comment. We've had that, we've moved on. He hasn't and it's embarrassing.

A New Group Challenges The MEM: When the Originals failed to provide the charisma needed to match those grandiloquent geriatrics; let's face it, AJ is known for his high-flying, not his after-dinner speaking, it unbalanced the product and destroyed any tension. The World Elite are a better proposition. Led by a gravel-voiced EY who has found his niche as a mini-Kurt, they actually have some good talkers who are hungry; Oblivious Magnus can talk well and wrestle a bit, Doug Williams can wrestle well and talk a bit, Rob Terry can look big and...erm...

And with the right wing racist cipher Bashir (he's surely a disgrace to his race) and the fiendish Japanese (disgrace number 2), they have a deep talent pool which we're not bored with yet.

And the writers have got it right too. Maybe it's Scott D'Amore's influence, but this gang mean business. They've been pushed to the top quickly, but because they achieved something before joining the Elite, it seems natural.

Finally, Kurt and the boys have taken a step back. It wouldn't work if they'd played high status, it would have just killed the new group dead. By allowing the World Elite (got to love the overkill on that name) to push them onto the back foot, we legitimately feel that the new pretenders could manage to unseat them. At last, some real competition.

Showcasing Younger Talent: The break with the old has given them breathing space and the audacity to lever themselves out of the ditch they were in. And they've taken it.

Let's admit it, a tourney is nothing new. It's who you elevate that makes the difference. TNA were

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bold; among the usual suspects, the broken-down Rhino, the (hopefully) last-hurrah Sting, both Hernadez and Doug Williams got significant mat time. They respoded well. So did the fans. So did I. Adding a new element and being serious about it adds a fresh summer meadow smell that = buys.

The Motor City Machine Guns Are Finally Getting What They Deserve: When a duo become a hit despite being buried, you know they're something special. When brass ignore them week after week, fingers start to clatter on keyboards in meaningless chat rooms all over the hemisphere - "which wrestler's costume do I think sucked the most? Oooh, good question! I've never seen a woman naked, so this will have to do!" - but finally, Shelley and Sabin have been given the attention they need.

We knew they were great separately, we gasped at how good they were together, we saw that they even made the "who is Suicide?" angle at least watchable.

Now they've been given a rub by Taz(z) and allowed to let their yakking - like two

adolescents chatting at home, but with more smarts than Beavis and Butthead - do the rest. That they are given a loose rein to insult/be truthful about fellow grapplers is as surprising as it is amusing. How long they'll keep their dignity in the locker room is another matter.

Jazzing Up Failing Feuds: OK, I'm thinking about just one feud here; the risible, inept, so-bad-Mae Young-should-be-in-it Abyss and Dr Stevie

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disaster. Brass have stubbornly continued with it, despite the slings and arrows of written word and spittle-flecked imprecation. But now, it's evolved. Well, actually devolved. It's become less than a fancy angle. It's a feud. With one wrinkle. The bounty on Abyss' head. This opens things out so well that anyone could turn up, anyone after that money. Adding much-needed value to one-pace hardcore Abyss (even Necro can get boring!) and his array of overalls.

TNA Value Wrestling At The Moment: I could be wrong. Hang on. No, weighing the probabilities, there's more chance of Jordan winning "Parent of the Year". It just appears to me that there's more wrestling and less unfunny skits in recent Impacts.

And they've stopped teasing so much - we wanted a battle between the newly-broken Homicide and Hernandez? They gave it to us immediately. And it was good.

That's the main reason for the improvement; they are now concentrating on wrestlers, not events. And that's what I've been writing about for years.

However, there's a big but (and, as I said to my Spanish whore, that's how it should be); you'll be saying "Hang on, you can't give away PPV matches on Impact!" Actually, you're more likely to be saying "You know, like, them, you know, matches, it not good on Impact, knowwhatImean, for free?"

You're saying it because it's the received wisdom, the stuff people shout and blog about. So it must be true, right? Well, history is just publicity because it's usually written by winners with an agenda; always look at who's written what you're reading - everyone has a view and a skew.

So let me burst three orthodoxies; Capitalism is not the best way to stamp out poverty, radical redistribution of money is; if you have a home with a mortgage, you own nothing, as the bank own it and you both, all they've done is managed to pass the financial burden of looking after the house from a landlord to you - good trick, eh?; wrestlers don't care who you are, you are simply faceless blobs who don't even represent dollar signs, 'cos they get paid whether you come or not - get used to it.

There are three ways to make money in grappling, discounting all the subsidiary merch; gate receipts, TV deals, PPV money. Gates are down because the product in the big two has been poor; so how do you get to show those punters how good your product is now? Local and national ads won't work, and the bait and switch of wrestling means they won't take your word for it.

AJ IS KNOWN FOR HIS HIGH-FLYING, NOT HIS AFTER-DINNER SPEAKING

PPV buys are down; how do you get punters to buy when they've been to a taping a few months ago and thought it poor?

What reaches the most potential punters? Your weekly TV shows. An ideal way to show people the product is classy and a perfect way to start word of mouth. I don't think it's giving stuff away to nail viewers with a quality match. I also think it shouldn't matter if booking is good.

Yes, booking. That little thing. The rules that seem to have been forgotten - that feuds can be brought to the boil slowly and fans don't have to be constantly stimulated. They will stay around if the psychology is right - trust me Vinnie R, Vinnie M - Jake Roberts is beloved of so many fans and what did he do? Very little, but he got the psychology right.

That's the reason why grappling's in a parlous state-wrestling ate itself. We deperately need to concentrate on the core strength. Oh yes, that just happens to be wrestling. Sounds simple but it's proved nigh-on impossible for the big two.

Until recently. The WWE is beginning to show signs, in their rush to PG-13, of getting their kicks in the ring (ooh, sailor!) and TNA are also beginning to please us there too (matron!). Maybe they're finally getting it. I hope the sacking of Cornette is just a blip, I really do. And if they do take those faltering steps towards proper matches, longer matches, matches that finish clean, matches that mean something, then even I can put aside the jaundice pie and applaud that.

The Cynic

Instant Replay Overload

Charlie Reneke's 'Call To Arms'....

I'm trying to get a call to arms for wrestling fans to stand up and tell the WWE to cut out some of the bullshit production issues that are screwing up the product. The WWE will *never* listen to the fans when it comes to the direction of their company, but they seem to take notice when fans bitch about production issues. For example, enough fans complained about 24/7 having blood censored from matches that they reversed their policy on that.

Well, my personal pet-peeve production issue is the WWE's overuse of instant replays on their shows and especially on their pay-per-views. Not only do they use too many of them, but they do so without any regard to the action going on in the ring and as a result you miss a LOT of stuff in the matches.

Thus, I have created a sample letter that can be sent to the WWE.

Dear WWE,

We understand that pressing buttons is a fun activity for those poor 'gifted' souls among us that seem to make up your production staff. However, their constant pushing of the 'instant replay' button, pretty as it may be on the control panel, is messing with our ability to sit back and watch the match we paid good money to see. You might not realize this, but there is this whacky new invention called DVR that allows a person to rewind a show that is in progress in case we either miss something or want to see something that just happened again. And this DVR thing has been in use by every major cable and satellite television provider for a couple years now and has penetrated more then 50% of the market. There are rumors that this so-called 'rewind' function is also possible on the shinny discs that you guys issue your pay per views on, DVDs or something like that, and that would allow people to watch those moments again if they so wish to. In other words, your instant replays that constantly cause viewers to miss the live action are completely antiquated and unnecessary in this modern world. Please only save the instant replay function for periods when both wrestlers are 'knocked out' or if there is some kind of delay in the match where no action is currently happening. If necessary, paint the instant replay button on the control panel a non-attractive color (like, say, pale green or mud brown) to discourage your staff from pressing it. Failing that, you might want to look into shock collars.

Love _____

PS: Seriously, cut it the hell out or I'll quit buying your DVDs/PPVs and start downloading them illegally or watching pirated streams of them off of Justin.tv like everyone else does these days.

If you feel the need, you can de-smartass it, but do send them a note on it. The link is…

https://secure.wwe.com/forms/help/show.php

I'm trying to get as many publications to print this as possible. I review WWE shows and it's getting increasingly tougher to do as every month the WWE is firing off more instant replays per a match then the previous month. It's an epidemic and they won't stop until enough people tell them to knock it off.

THE SmarK RANT

15 Essential WWE DVDs (and 5 Inessential Ones) For The Holiday Season

By SCOTT KEITH - skeith@gmail.com

I think we can all agree that the most important moment in the history of modern wrestling was WWE buying WCW in 2001 and thus flushing the business down the toilet, creatively speaking, forever. However, even industry-destroying business moves can have an upside, and in this case it's the acquisition of the tape library owned by WCW.

Although WCW itself was worth absolutely nothing without TV, the library has provided fans with thousands of hours of entertainment via WWE Classics on Demand and the endless cash-in DVD sets, all of which declare themselves to be "Essential", "Ultimate" or "Definitive." So which of them actually are? Well, with many newer fans watching the product these days and inexplicably buying John Cena merchandise, a primer on wrestling when it used to be GOOD might be in order as a present under the tree. So to keep things reasonably organized and fair, I'm presenting 5 must-buy choices in three different categories: Individual wrestlers, "Best of" sets, and history sets. And since my motto is that I'll watch the crap so you don't have to, I'll also list 5 ones to avoid if possible. And away we go!

INDIVIDUAL WRESTLER SETS:

Honorable Mention: The Self-Destruction of the Ultimate Warrior

If you're a wrestler currently employed by the WWE and you want an abject lesson in why you should never, ever publicly oppose Vince McMahon in anything, here you go. Although Warrior was arguably one of the biggest draws of the 80s and 90s and a major part of the childhoods of many fans today, his career is reduced to a two-hour hatchet job here. This DVD does everything just short of having a scientist declare under oath that Jim Hellwig has the "evil gene" in order to discredit and mock him. Yeah, he wasn't a great worker and he comes off as more than a little crazy, but given that he had no opportunity to defend himself, this whole DVD comes off as petty and nasty. But that's also why it's a fascinating DVD to watch.

5. Shawn Michaels (From the Vault / Heartbreak & Triumph)

This is a case where the original and superior disc isn't widely available any longer, but the content has become overlapped anyway. Still, if you want stuff like the Iron Man match, the famous Mankind match and the first Hell in a Cell match all in one place, this is the set for you. For a more modern take on Shawn with 7 years of his comeback under his wing, the newer 3-disc set offers more rarities rather than the usual standards, and makes a nice companion piece. I say get them both and enjoy!

4. Bret Hart: The Best There Is, The Best There Was, The Best There Ever Will Be

The DVD that many people thought would never happen, and almost turned into an Warrior-style character assassination before a last-minute deal with Bret saved it. Time and repetition have rendered a lot of the content kind of redundant, but stuff like the matches against Owen Hart and the underappreciated bloodbath against British Bulldog

from 1995, along with a fantastic documentary, made this one of my favorite sets of all-time before they started recycling all the matches elsewhere.

3. Macho Madness: The Ultimate Randy Savage Collection

You'd think one of the most famous wrestlers in history would have warranted a comprehensive set before this, but no. And although the usual culprits (match repetition and ignoring large chunks of time) rear their ugly heads here, the career of the Macho Man is so compelling and the matches are so great that it overcomes its own shortcomings by sheer force of willpower. If you want a good overview of his rise to prominence in the 80s and why he was such a big star, this is a great set. If you're more interested in his later WCW days, it's pretty lacking, but that's why sequels are made.

2. Ric Flair: The Definitive Collection / Ric Flair & The Four Horsemen

Flair is like Jell-O - There's always room for more. That's why an obvious cash grab like the 3-disc sequel to the original Flair set is still awesome. Sure, there's only a couple of instant classic ***** matches on here, but you still get some perfectly good ****1/2 classics, a great documentary detailing his life, plus a shitload of promos. Want to focus on his Four Horsemen period instead? Hey, there's a whole 2-disc set for that as well, featuring crazy rarities like Flair beating the snot out of Ricky Morton in a cage match and a Wargames match from 1988 that no one had ever seen on TV up until this DVD. But these sets are like Advanced Flair Studies. For the basic introductions, you need look no further than....

1. The Ultimate Ric Flair Collection

Well of course the name is a misnomer because it produced two sequels (with more likely on the way) but if you want pretty much every mind-blowingly great Flair match from the 80s you'll ever need or want in one set, this is the one to get. Flair v. Steamboat! Flair v. Windham! Flair v. Race! Flair v. Funk! Flair v. 29 other guys in the Royal Rumble! Truly this is the definition of a "must-buy" set for anyone wondering why people worship the ground Flair walks on even as he continues to devolve into self-parody. The great thing is that this includes all the promos and angles leading up to each match, providing context instead of just throwing all those great matches at you and expecting you to care for no reason. This is by far the greatest wrestling DVD ever produced and has yet to be topped or even matched by the WWE production staff.

BEST OF SETS:

5. The Best of RAW (15th Anniversary)

This one is here because of potential more than execution. It could have achieved true greatness by actually taking the time to provide viewers with a history of the show and better matches, but it's just held back by again skipping over gigantic portions of the timeline and some really questionable choices for "highlights". Still, for a nostalgia piece on the juggernaut known as Monday Night RAW, you could do worse. Like "RAW X", for example.

4. The Essential Starrcade

For their first attempt at releasing an all-WCW set without being snarky about it, this is pretty good. Presented as a top 20 countdown voted on by the fans (always the death knell for any kind of historical relevance in these things), the set nonetheless manages to hit all the important notes in the short lifespan of WCW's traditional biggest show of the year. You've got Tully v. Magnum, Sting v. Hogan, Flair v. everyone, plus a lot of weird choices that I can only assume fans had never seen and just voted for because they sounded good on paper. It's an interesting set however you look at it.

3. The Ladder Match / Hell In A Cell

I'm grouping these together because they illustrate an important point when looking at these sorts of sets: Yes, there's been some great ladder matches and great Hell in a Cell matches, but can any sane human being endure 9 hours of the same thing without going a little batty? So I recommend these ones not to watch in one sitting, but as archives for doling out in small doses. So in that sense they're great as keepsakes, but not necessarily as something you'd want to watch all at once. But hey, some people can't get enough of this stuff, and the people on your list might be one of them.

2. Greatest Wrestling Stars of the 80s / 90s

These sets are a fabulous grab-bag for newer fans, because it lays out all the major players from each respective decade in the usual WWE short-attention-span manner, giving people who only know, say, Roddy Piper as a name something to appreciate from him. Match selection is eclectic to say the least, but I think it works within the "little bit of everything for everyone" approach that these releases take. I enjoyed them both and look forward to the 2000s set that will inevitably come in 2011.

1. Saturday Night's Main Event

Now here is a set truly made by fans, for fans. The documentary portions not only capture the spirit and goofy charm of the original Saturday Night's Main Event concept, but the match selection is as close to perfect as I've ever seen on a WWE release. Watching this DVD set is like transporting back to 1986 and staying up past your bedtime to watch Hulk Hogan fight Paul Orndorff in a cage match so you can talk about it in school on Monday morning. The third disc, detailing the ill-fated revival of the show on prime time NBC in recent years, is less of a crowd-pleaser, but does little to bring down the party otherwise. I anxiously await a sequel to this one!

HISTORY SETS:

5. The History of the WWE Championship

This is one is low on the list because of the usual match repetition problems, but given how meaningless the "World" titles have become now I think it's important to preserve what history they do have, and this set at least makes a convincing attempt to navigate the saga of the main WWE title from the inception with Buddy Rogers up until today. Of course there's the usual omissions due to politics and questionable match selections, but a video timeline of the title is so welcomed that I find it easy to forgive. Plus this is one of the last WWE DVDs to feature Chris Benoit before he was erased from history. The third disc has a hell of a match listing, as well. See later for my thoughts on the companion piece on the Intercontinental title, though.

4. The Spectacular Legacy of the AWA

I wanted to like this one a lot more than I did, because the documentary portion is quite refreshingly honest compared to other pieces they've done, but the match listing is so brutally silly at times (with a bunch of clipped matches) that I don't know how the people in charge of compiling it were able to keep a straight face while doing so. Still, the snark from the editing room as Greg Gagne gets passive-aggressively mocked is quite entertaining, and the narrative from Nick Bockwinkel in the bonus features is also very worthwhile. Older fans might be disappointed, but newer fans will appreciate the history lesson, I hope.

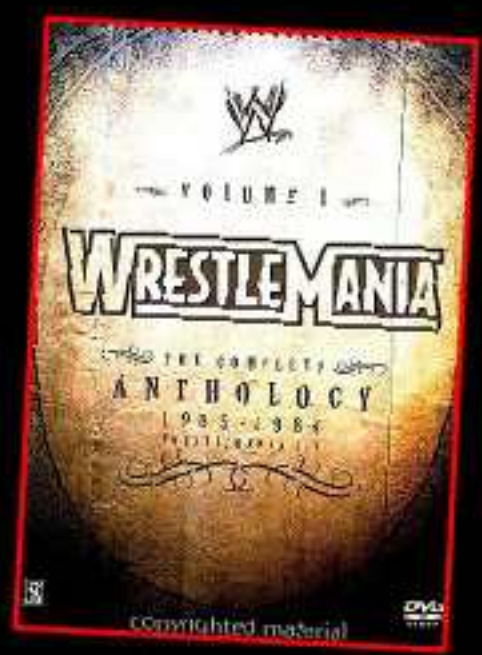
3. Triumph and Tragedy of World Class / Heroes of World Class

So I'm including one non-WWE DVD in this list, because I think it's important that if you're looking at the WWE version of the World Class story (Triumph and Tragedy) that you should also watch the independently produced counterpoint. Both DVDs detail the sad and tragic end of one of the most influential companies in wrestling history, but whereas the WWE set trades hard-hitting moments for slickly-produced soundbites, the Heroes disc offers a more raw and visceral experience. If the WWE set had any kind of match listing (which it doesn't) it would be the easy recommendation, but judging merely by the documentaries I'd recommend getting both of them for the full story.

2. The Rise and Fall of ECW

Now if you're looking for some brutal honesty in your history piece, this is the set for you. Paul Heyman pulls no punches in this look back at the little promotion that could (but then couldn't), detailing as many of the sordid secrets and dirty tricks as he could remember and fit into the running time. It's also a fascinating look at Heyman himself as much as it is about his upstart promotion, showing what can happen when mad genius is left without a filter. Plus it's got an awesome collection of bonus matches, including the only match in ECW history I ever gave a full ***** rating.

1. The Wrestlemania Anthology



I included this one with the history pieces because, well, it's my list and I do what I want. Regardless, Wrestlemania has become such a self-encompassing entity since the move to stadiums that you really need to sit down and watch them all from the beginning to get a sense of the scope of the name. No slick documentary can match sitting through the early years, then the excess of the 90s, followed by the low point of 1997 and subsequent rise on the backs of Steve Austin and the Rock. And since a ton of the greatest matches in history have happened at Wrestlemania, you'll get a bunch of them to appreciate. Now, a word of warning for history buffs and the anal retentive: Although these are the full PPV versions, music editing is brutal and unforgiving. Rather than negotiate any sort of settlement for various pieces of music, the lawyers simply opted to hack out entrance and incidental music with a chainsaw and have Howard Finkel re-record ring introductions where needed. That's not cool, man. But since this is the closest we'll ever get to a complete experience, it'll have to do.

5 TO AVOID:

Honorable Mention: Batista.

Yes, a 3 disc set about Batista that will be out by the time you read this. This is a real thing.

5. History of the Intercontinental title

This one could have been completely solid, and probably should have been, but it was killed by two important factors: Match repetition and ignoring history. If you don't have anything else in your collection with Savage v. Steamboat, Bret Hart v. British Bulldog and Shawn Michaels v. Razor Ramon, then yeah, this is a great set. But pretty much EVERY other set includes one of those matches, and it's ENOUGH already with them. What you're left with is a motley collection of matches that aren't title changes, skipping over entire years' worth of content and happenings, and even ignoring the entire period when the title was "retired" in 2002! Maybe it's just me, but I feel like WWE has a responsibility to maintain the history of their company a little bit more carefully than they currently do, and this set was just such a disappointment from that end.

4. The New And Improved D-X

Nine hours of jokes about how Vince McMahon likes cocks. An interesting idea for a DVD set, to be sure, as this presents the segments that formed D-X's 2006 reunion in their entirety, as in literally every minute of it. The problem is that it was uniformly terrible and not worth archiving. There's plenty of great feuds and angles deserving this kind of obsessive archival, but watching HHH and Shawn Michaels work through their bizarre mid-life crisis and sell t-shirts ain't one of them.

3. The Rock: The Most Electrifying Man In Sports Entertainment

Another one that seems like an easy lay-up and just comes off looking like a lazy cash-in. Rock wasn't even involved in the production of this DVD, which makes it seem like a greatest hits package produced by a record label after the artist has already signed a new deal elsewhere. Yeah, it's a got few new Rock matches and the usual awesome promos, but Rock deserves better than a throwaway soundbite from Steve Lombardi.

2. John Cena: My Life

Now I have nothing against John Cena personally, but the dude has been in wrestling for all of 7 years and already has two "definitive" DVD collections detailing his career. Is there really a giant catalog of Cena matches needing release? This one in particular is such a waste of DVD space because they couldn't even find a third disc of material and had to fill it instead with WWE.com segments. Let's perhaps wait until Cena is far enough along in his career to make judgments about it before looking back with nostalgia, shall we?

1. McMahon

Well, in all fairness, it IS his company.

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A CAMERAMAN'S EYE VIEW OF WRESTLING

By PHIL AUSTIN - PhilUK1@aol.com

As well as writing for such vaunted publications as this terrific one you are reading right now, I've also developed into one of the more well-rounded cameraman on the wrestling scene in this country. Outside of the WWE, New Japan and All Japan, I've pretty much filmed them all.

Pro Wrestling NOAH? Filmed it.
Ring of Honor? Filmed it
Ric Flair? Filmed him
The Great Muta? Filmed him too
King of Europe? I was there and filmed the whole weekend
TNA? Yep, I've even filmed Jeff Jarr...ahem, sorry, I mean Kurt Angle and friends!

And over the past few years of filming, I've developed some techniques and expertise that not only help me film wrestling, but can assist all of us in producing or even watching wrestling shows. Whether you are a wrestler, a booker or just a random face in the crowd, there is something about looking at wrestling closeup through the eye of a camera that can assist you.

What follows isn't a 'professionals guide to filming wrestling' by any means, although it will offer hints and tips. But it's a simple guide to how to get the most out of watching or performing a wrestling match.

SO IF A WRESTLER IS IN TROUBLE, DON'T STAND THERE LAUGHING...

Impact!

A lot of what we get out of wrestling is all about the impact, or perceived notion of impact. And no, I'm not talking about TNA here, I mean the actual physical contact that appears to be made in each match.

As a wrestling cameraman, you have quite a part to play in this. Keep the camera static during an impactful move, and you just won't give the same impression of how hardhitting that move was. What you need to do is follow the move down, and hold the shot at the point of impact. That will make an impactful move even more so in the eyes of the viewer.

It's a simple process, but an effective one, and one that can really add to any wrestling viewing. WWE cameras use a rather annoying technique to do this of quickly zooming in and out of impact moves. But if you go to a WWE show live, the moves just don't seem quite that 'hardhitting' without this technique.

Movement is the key. Stand still and film a static shot, and you just haven't got the impact on film. It's at this point where the cameraman has a distinct

benefit over the seated observer at a live show. No matter how impactful the move looks to the live audience, it looks a LOT more so when followed on film properly.

Submissions, Selling and Facials

Submissions are a key part to filming wrestling. And there are distinctly different types of submission. Some, such as the sharpshooter only have one wrestler facing your camera. Others, such as the crossface are doubly effective, in that they have both wrestlers facing you.

"So what?" you may ask. Well, the key to a good submission is not as much as how it is applied, but how it is sold. And the key to much of this selling is in the facial expressions.

As a cameraman, you need to concentrate very solidly on these facials. But not ONLY on the facials. Keep an eye on the body movements of each wrestler as well. As tremendous as the facials were between Misawa and Kobashi on the NOAH European Navigation show (if you've seen it, and you should, you'll know the submission spot I'm talking about), there was another point where I had Steve Corino facing away from me in a submission, and focused entirely on the movement of his hand as he struggled to keep feeling in his arm, which was another unique way to get over the submission's effect.

As cameraman, we get to watch submissions all the time. But the key is to make them believable. And this key is based entirely around the way the wrestlers are selling the submission. Capturing the struggle can be one of the most satisfying and dramatic parts of filming wrestling.

While we are on the subject of selling, it also applies to you. As a cameraman, you are at ringside and are therefore seen as being a part of the live show by the audience. You need to react in a way that adds to the show, not detracts from it. So if a wrestler is in trouble, don't stand there laughing, show concern or seriousness in your face. There is nothing worse than a fan seeing an insider laughing at ringside while something serious is taking place inside the ring.

And this leads me to yet another aspect of selling as a cameraman. What to do if you are hit! I've been hit both intentionally and unintentionally, and I've both succeeded and failed in selling it properly. Now, as a cameraman, you are NOT there to be a wrestler, you are there to film, so if you get hit you shouldn't sell to the point of not being able to film. However, if you don't sell at all, you make the wrestlers look bad, and you don't want that either.

An example of BAD selling: I was at an IPW:UK show and got 'caught' in the way of Martin Stone throwing Leroy Kincaide into a ringpost. I got sandwiched between Kincaide and the ringpost. Key factor: Martin and Leroy are both professionals, therefore IT DID NOT HURT. However, without thinking I just walked forward and carried on filming as if nothing happened, making the move look ineffectual. Needless to say I apologised to both after the show.

How I SHOULD have selled can be demonstrated by my 'SUWA' moment. Some people may remember this. It was at a 1PW show where

Japanese wrestler SUWA was to face Bryan Danielson. Out came SUWA and, as usual, he threatened ringsiders with his singapore cane. Me too. But then he prodded me with it, and hit me twice on the leg with it. Not something I was expecting. A second prod, and I fell backwards into the corner, at which point he kept hitting me with it. The key here is that while putting my foot up (out of camera shot) to block the shots, I was able to keep filming. The result, which clearly SUWA as a professional knew, looked pretty great as you got a cameraman's point of view of SUWA's attack. After that attack, I stayed down while SUWA went around the ring, then SLOWLY got to me feet to prepare to film Danielson's entrance but made sure to limp and hold my side when I moved back ringside. Simple selling of a move that didn't interfere with what my job actually was.

What You DON'T Film

For a production that has illusion very much at its heart, you have to be aware that there are some things you don't want to film. Angles are important to ensure that you don't see 'air' between wrestlers during moves, and you need to avoid where possible wrestlers talking to each other.

This is not something you have to majorly worry about. Editing can overcome much of this (if you spot points where you picked these things up then it might be worth letting the editor know where it occurs so they don't miss it). However, if you can avoid it, then do so.

What to Film If You Can't Film Anything!

Another key point to filming wrestling is that you are filming a live show and should be on the ball, filming at all times.

There will, of course, be times where you have absolutely nothing worth filming in front of your lens. Wrestlers may be facing the opposite side of the ring, or just be completely out of sight.

This is NOT a reason to rest up. At a wrestling show, there is always something to film.

I remember one of the 1PW shows, where Spud (one of my favourite wrestlers to film as he knows how to work the camera!) faced Sterling James Keenan in a streetfight. The battle went into the bleachers and just out of my range.

But what I noticed was that, although I could not see the combatants, I could see a shadow on the wall of Spud pounding SJK. I focused on that shadow, and the result is on the DVD of that show, and looks pretty dramatic in its own way.

If nothing else, you have an entire crowd to film. As we've seen on many shows in the past, crowd reaction can make or break a show. Find people in the crowd who are reacting, and film them. The result will be that you have great crowd shots, which will add to the drama of the match as a whole, and will make for a very happy promoter (but keep an eye to make sure you aren't missing anything in-ring while you are doing this!). If you point a camera at a crowd it often brings that section of the crowd to life too, which helps the live atmosphere as well!

Aerial shots

When a wrestler goes to the top rope, you want to make sure that their 'big move' looks as spectacular as possible. There are a few ways of doing this, and you will no doubt have your own preferences. If you are on the same side of the ring you can follow the move down in the same way as the impact shots.

But the best shot is the 'corner-to-corner' shot. Watching from the opposite corner, and as low as possible, you can keep the wrestler on the top rope and his fallen opponent in view. This can look tremendous, as the wrestler on the top will be heading towards the camera and might even land fairly close. Trust me it looks great, and is very safe!

Corner to corner shots are also good when a wrestler runs into his opponent. But beware.

Standing in the corner where the opponent is, you need to know the moves that are coming. Several wrestlers shoot their legs through the ropes or throw themselves over the top rope while they do it. Being too close and not being ready to jump back can lead to situations I've been in, where I've had wrestlers such as Jimmy Rave and Mark Sloan on top of me. Luckily both are professional enough to avoid injuring me.

The Hard Camera

The third camera in most shoots is very, very important. Setting up a hard camera to show all four corners of the ring can give a solid view of the action as a whole that individual ringsiders can't get (the big picture, if you will).

I was taught how to do hard camera properly by two men with long names, Gabe Sapolsky and Barry Charalambos. Both showed me how to keep the shots ringpost to ringpost, but to follow the action as it went outside the ring, and most importantly to expand the shot to take in crowd reactions during big moments. Again, the crowd is just as important as the wrestlers in the match, and this camera is ideal for showing them.

Be Creative

As long as you get the basics right, there are no hard and fast rules of filming wrestling. The key is, if you think that a shot will properly reflect the action in front of you, then give it a try. As long as it doesn't detract from the action, or miss any of it, you can be incredibly creative in wrestling filming once you get the basics down pat, and especially once you get to know the moves of the wrestlers' in the matches.

I used creativity in a 1PW match between Goldust and Christopher 'Curry Man' Daniels. Knowing the moves, I was eagerly anticipating the 'Shattered Dreams' spot. And it happened exactly at the angle I wanted. Curry Man was placed astride the corner nearest me and, as Goldust lined up for the kick of doom, I positioned my shot.

WHILE PUTTING MY FOOT UP TO BLOCK THE SHOTS, I WAS ABLE TO KEEP FILMING.

The resulting shot of Goldust through Curry Man's prone legs was EXACTLY what I was hoping for, and was much more interesting to film than just the basic shot of Goldust's run up and kick.

The Final Cut

Above all else, filming wrestling can be incredibly fun and exciting. I've been threatened by Abyss, hooked on barbed wire while filming Ian Rotten and been in a TNA ring in front of thousands of fans. And I've filmed more major promotions than I could ever have dreamed of.

But filming wrestling is far more than just picking up a camera and pointing it at the action. As a cameraman, you are as much related to how the action is perceived as those who are performing it. And it's important that wrestling cameramen are every bit as skilled as those who are wrestling, otherwise the industry as a whole will never get respected on mainstream TV.

The above is just a sampling of the techniques you can use to get the best out of filming wrestling. If you are interested in getting the most out of filming wrestling, feel free to email me at PhilUK1@aol.com and I'll see if I, and other industry folk, can arrange a chance to get you some more experience and share some of my experiences to help you.

MORE OR LESS: WHY PAY-PER-VIEWS DON'T EXCITE US

By JOHN M. MILNER - docmilner42@hotmail.com

It started with one.

In late 1985, WWE (then, of course, known as the WWF) presented the Wrestling Classic as the initial foray into the world of pay-per-view. A sixteen man tournament, won by the late Junk Yard Dog, provided the centerpiece of the event, which also included a WWF Championship match between then-champion Hulk Hogan and challenger 'Rowdy' Roddy Piper.

Fast-forward nearly a quarter of a century and wrestling now litters the pay-per-view schedule. The WWE and TNA each present an event every month. Other promotions, such as Ring of Honor and Dragon Gate USA make sporadic appearances on that schedule.

But is it too much of a good thing, or even just too much?

For the WWE and TNA, the monthly pay-per-view is the star around which everything else orbits, from title changes to blow offs to feuds. That trend serves as evidence as to how much the industry has changed in half a century. TV was originally used to promote the house shows. Bruno Sammartino or Harley Race had no chance of losing their championship during a TV match. Instead, promoters would use TV time to get fans excited about big matches at places like Madison Square Garden, the Atlanta Omni or San Francisco's Cow Palace.

In 2009, while Raw, Smackdown and Impact might offer more 'historical' content than the WWF Championship Wrestling of old, everything points toward what will happen at the Royal Rumble or Victory Road. If you want to know what's going on with pro wrestling, it would seem you need to shell out the cash to buy this weekend's pay-per-view, and the one next weekend as well.

Normally, when one discusses the negative aspect of so much pay-per-view, we turn our attention to the financial strain it places on the average wrestling fan. Back in the hey-day of wrestling in the mid-to-late 1990s, it was possible to gather up a half-dozen or so wrestling fans to help split the cost of watching the

Rock, 'Stone Cold' Steve Austin and the rest do their thing at Wrestlemania, and then come back a couple of weeks later to watch Sting and company battle the N.W.O.

But as the wrestling boom has died off, so too has the interest of so many casual wrestling fans. Instead of ten wrestling fans gathering together in someone's living room, it might be just one or two. And so, rather than being able to tune in for every pay-per-view, those remaining fans are probably going to be choosier about which events they purchase.

And quite frankly, there's an argument to be made that the WWE and TNA aren't making those decisions all that difficult. Instead of creating 'must-see' events fans will be circling on their calendars, the major promotions seem more content to simply take last month's pay-per-view, tweak it a little bit and try and get fans to pay to see it all again.

Today, fans complain of lacklustre pay-per-views, and with good reason. When John Cena battles Randy Orton, it's a match we've seen before because the WWE has been forced to fill out twelve major events a year, and there are only so many warm bodies they figure we'll pay to see.

One might argue that more pay-per-view events in a year would prompt them to elevate new and young talent. To a degree, CM Punk and Legacy serve as evidence that they have, but for the most part, we're still paying to see Orton, Cena and DX in the main event.

And because fans continue to see the same faces month in and month out, the enthusiasm shown towards pay-per-view has waned. With just weeks to prep the next show, there's no time to do much more than remind fans what happened at the last pay-per-view, and convince them to watch it again.

When the WWE hit its stride in the late 1980s, the company went from one pay-per-view a year (Wrestlemania) to four (including the Survivor Series, Royal Rumble and SummerSlam). Four was a nice number, it basically gave the company and fans one event for every season with which to look towards, build up to and get excited about

Unlike the modern-day style of promoting, where matches seem almost hap-hazardly thrown together, sometimes at the last minute, the style prevalent in the late-80s gave the promoters time to build the angles and storylines.

With the ability to promote the event over a period of weeks and months, rather than just a few days, promoters could build up matches to where many felt like there was a 'Must-See' quality to them. Certainly, a one-on-one bout between Ricky Steamboat and Randy Savage at Wrestlemania III would need little help in becoming a match fans clamoured to see. However, the storyline of Steamboat wanting revenge for the injury Savage inflicted upon him, in addition to the Intercontinental Championship, was an added factor that increased the buzz surrounding the match.

Because the WWE was only holding one pay-per-view a year, Wrestlemania, the Steamboat and Savage rivalry was able to be spread across several months. They weren't rushed into having the blow-off match several weeks later. Savage's initial attack on Steamboat was broadcast in November 1986, a full four months before the two met at the Pontiac Silverdome. This allowed for Steamboat promos, as he recovered from his larynx injury, to continue to prep fans for not only his return but the inevitable rematch against Savage. And because feuds cannot live on promos alone, Steamboat also appeared on the January 1987 edition of Saturday Night's Main Event, during Savage's match against George 'The Animal' Steele (a move that also allowed Steele to be written in as Steamboat's special corner man for the Wrestlemania bout).

Because the WWF had to ability to spend four months building up to Steamboat-Savage, the match, which would have been well-anticipated regardless, became one of the most-revered matches in the industry's history. In fact, Wrestlemania III remains near the top of any 'Best Wrestlemanias' list, due in no small part because it came at a time when pay-per-views were rare and therefore each felt special.

Although the WWE should be commended for pulling out the stops for making Wrestlemania still feel special, the same cannot be said for the minor pay-per-views, like No Way Out, Backlash and The Bash. Instead of being shows fans can look back on and remember fondly, they all seem to flow together.

Obviously, the WWE makes too much money to consider ditching the monthly pay-per-view format. They are no different than WalMart or Nike, they are in business to make money, and as long as they continue to make money, they adhere to the old adage: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it". But they might find that, by altering their business plan (as competitor TNA is expected to do), they might find improved results in one key area: customer satisfaction.

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www.legendsradio.net

12th November 2004

THE NIGHT BEFORE BRITISH UPRISING 3

| By JOHN ATKINS - johnatkinsiii@yahoo.com |

For reasons that will become clear next month, John Atkins was unable to submit a column this month. As such, due to contractual obligations with TWP management, he is now forced to publish this hugely embarrassing diary entry he wrote as a young 24 year-old on the eve of FWA British Uprising Three, held at the Coventry Skydome in 2004.

The thoughts and opinions expressed in the following are entirely those of John Atkins… although they may well be ones he no longer holds!

Normal service will be resumed next month

I woke up this morning feeling full of nervous energy. It is one day until British Uprising 3, the biggest show in the FWA's history. I will be ring-announcing, and also hosting a 'fanslam' event in the afternoon.

For the last couple of weeks I have been trying to go to the gym whenever I've had the chance, but today I just didn't feel like it. Instead, I wanted to make sure that I was totally prepared for the show.

Obviously, by now most of the preparation has been done.

Over the last several weeks I have written a couple of press releases for the show, filmed the last few episodes of the TV series (the last of which was filmed on my roof. The reason: perpetual drilling in the flats either side of me. The cover: a special show 'live from Coventry', 24 hours before Uprising.) I also attended a photo shoot where I filmed a couple of interview segments, and helped make sure that the souvenir programme was in a reasonable shape before it went to press.

On Wednesday, I taped several episodes of the UK round-up show which will replace FWA TV from next week. I am the face commentator, the good guy, and Barry is the colour. I really enjoyed doing it, although I have no idea what people will think, or indeed if I was any good. My main flaw as a play-by-play is that my knowledge of moves is incredibly small. I mean, miniscule. I manage to get around this in most cases by simply telling the story of the match, or arguing with Barry, but I am sure I will get found out sooner or later.

The good thing about doing the UK round-up show is that I can (in theory) hone my play-by-play skills. When (if!) FWA TV resumes, the plan is to swap with Tony, taking over his role as the face commentator, whilst he takes over my role as presenter. In truth, I am delighted about this – I have always wanted to be a commentator. My main concern is that if I do a bad job on the round-up show, I will not be used as a commentator at all, and I will also be dropped from the TV. I hated presenting at first – it's a hassle, and I'm far from a natural – but having seen a couple of the recent shows, I would honestly say that I am a million times better than I was at the beginning of the year.

To be commentator I will also have to give up announcing, as it wouldn't make sense to have me sitting ringside whilst also supposedly commentating. I never got into wrestling to be a ring announcer, but it is something that I've grown to love, and I will miss it loads. Andy Coyne had to give up reffing to be Nick London, and I think he

was probably the best ref in the country, so at least I'll be in good company…

But what if they decide they don't want me as a commentator, or presenter, but I still have to give up ring announcing?? Try to stay positive!

I suppose I do loads of stuff for the FWA – often on a moment's notice – but am still amazingly insecure and assume that I will be got rid of at the earliest possible opportunity.

The other day I told Jane Childs that I would probably be giving up announcing to do commentary, expecting her to be pleased for me, or perhaps upset that I won't be announcing any more. Instead, she went quiet, and I later found out that Dean had also been promised the commentary job. Dean is amazingly articulate, with far more experience than I have, and in truth is a much better commentator than I could ever hope to be. The advantage I hold over him of course is that I don't work during the day, so when Kieran texts me at 11.30pm asking me to film some links for tomorrow, I can just hop on a tube and be at his by 10 the next morning. Dean lives in Brighton, has a proper job, would have to book time off and it would be expensive to get him up. Therefore I am better cos I live nearer!

So, it's Friday, the day before Uprising, and I am full of nervous energy.

I am concerned that because I'm meant to be hosting the fanslam, the pre-show, and then the main show that I will not have time to get to look at a running order and prepare ring introductions. I also know that there are going to be several segments in the show, such as the Johnny Storm petition, and I need to have a rough idea of what's going to happen in them, especially if I'm going to be presenting them.

I decide to call Alex, and see if a running order has already been worked out. Alex asks me how I'm feeling and I admit to being nervous. He tells me that he's also nervous. I tell him that I am sure that his match will be great – and I'm sure that it

FWA Promoter
Alex Shane

© Tony Knox - www.tonyknox.org.uk

will be. He tells me that it's not his match that he's concerned about, but the threat of sabotage. Last year's Uprising was almost cancelled due to a last-minute bomb scare. It's not beyond the realms of possibility that something similar – or worse – could happen again this year. I share his concerns.

Whilst I have Alex on the phone, I decide to ask him about the fanslam interviews. I'm meant to be interviewing D'Lo Brown, Jimmy Hart, Terry Funk and Doug Williams. I ask him what the tone of these interviews should be, specifically whether I should ask D'Lo about the Darren Drozdov incident? Alex advises me not to be controversial, and to let the audience ask the difficult questions. I tell him that I'm more than happy to play 'softball' with the guys, and then throw them open to the audience. I am still quite concerned though. What if someone does ask D'Lo about Drozdov? How would you feel if you had paralysed a man?

I'm also concerned about Terry Funk. I'm a huge fan, but he is renowned for being unpredictable, and I genuinely half-fear some sort of crazed attack.

I am worried that Doug's interview (if I do interview him) will fall flat. Doug is an awesome wrestler, but I remember last year's fanslam. Bill Apter tried to get an interview out of him and James Tighe, and it was excruciating. Neither man was comfortable talking in front of a crowd, and Bill later commented to me that Doug was especially unwilling to divulge any interesting stories or really open up. I just hope that I can carry the interview if necessary.

Strangely, I am really looking forward to interviewing Jimmy Hart. Still very nervous. But looking forward to it. I just hope that he is willing to 'play the game' and doesn't make me look like a complete idiot.

I decide to go and get my hair cut, then pick up my suit (still stained with, and now fading thanks to, Steve Corino's blood) from the dry cleaners. Although I hate getting my hair cut, I like doing it the day before a show, because it makes me feel more professional and better prepared. When I get back I give Andy Quildan, a call.

We chat for a while about Uprising and other wrestling-related stuff. Andy is reffing the Academy show tonight, and we talk for a while about Rishi Ghosh – a really, really talented youngster who has sadly decided to quit wrestling due to outside interests – acting, I believe. Later tonight, Rishi will lose a 'retirement match' against Max Voltage. I know that Alex had plans to bring Rishi into the main roster at some point, and it's such a shame that he's decided to pack it in when he's so close to making a name for himself in wrestling. Over the course of the conversation, Andy reveals that Rishi is also a qualified clown.

After speaking to Andy, I check my email and read the fan forum to see what people's thoughts are heading into Uprising. The UKFF is down, and I am reminded of Alex's fear of sabotage. It might sound stupid, but the internet, and internet promotion, is a huge part of the FWA, and it would be so easy for someone to pull the site in the crucial 24 hours before our biggest ever show.

I get a text from a university friend, Katie – her and Emma will be coming tomorrow, and I'm really excited to see them. Unfortunately Steve won't be able to come, having just been released from hospital. I send them the details and make sure they're on the guest list. Although I'm still nervous, I'm now starting to really look forward to the show.

At work that night, I log onto the Wrestling Channel Forums and try to whip up some excitement with a thread from my alter-ego, Bruno Short, starting a thread asking who is going to be at Uprising.

A couple of people respond, but I check ten minutes later and the whole Wrestling Channel site is down. Once again, my mind whirs into overdrive, dreaming of a conspiracy to deny the FWA of crucial last minute web attention, and again remember Alex's worry of sabotage. Half an hour later both the TWC forums and the UKFF are back up. The Uprising Thread started by Bruno Short is also progressing quite nicely, so I decide to add another contribution

I GENUINELY HALF-FEAR SOME SORT OF CRAZED ATTACK.

Before leaving work, I get a chance to read the UKFF, and an interview I recently filmed with Hade Vansen has been put up. I watch it on my laptop, and am (for once) very pleased with how it has turned out. I think that my delivery is strong, and my facials – although slightly over the top – are exactly what I had intended. I basically want to be like a young 'Mean Gene' Okerlund, someone who as a kid I had no respect for at all, but as a grown-up I really enjoy.

My colleague catches me watching it, and makes me start from the beginning. I think she is shocked by my confidence, as I'm pretty quiet at work. She exclaims 'you're acting!' as I recoil in mock fear from a menacing Vansen. I am pleased with this, and know that I wouldn't have been able to do this a couple of years ago. Normally I'm a really harsh critic of myself, and hate watching myself back on screen, so I'm delighted by this.

Of course, within an hour, someone has commented on the UKFF about how my facials were 'silly', which I am slightly upset by, although I do understand their point. A comment has been made that I clearly have no confidence and am awestruck in the presence of FWA wrestlers. People pay little attention to this though, and of course, the whole idea of my 'character' is that I am intimidated by the wrestlers. Someone even points out as much on the forum, saying that it would be unrealistic for me to stand up to the wrestlers, as I am just 'a measly announcer'. Believe it or not, but this is a huge compliment to me.

Still, I am annoyed with the negative feedback. I call up Kieran, and ask him what he thought of the promo, as he produced it. He said that it was good, and that my facials were fine. It is now about 10pm, and I'm about to head home for the night. Kieran says that he's about to have a bath, but will then have to spend the next several hours preparing for tomorrow. The guy must put in about 100 hours a week. No wonder he's constantly knackered.

I finish work at 11 and head home. I'm to meet Phil Austin and Kieran at 9am at Hemel Hempstead for a lift, and am bound to be exhausted. The last time I had to meet them there was to go to a Morecambe show, and I was so excited that I only slept for about an hour, and ended up being half an hour early, totally unheard of for me – especially at that time of day.

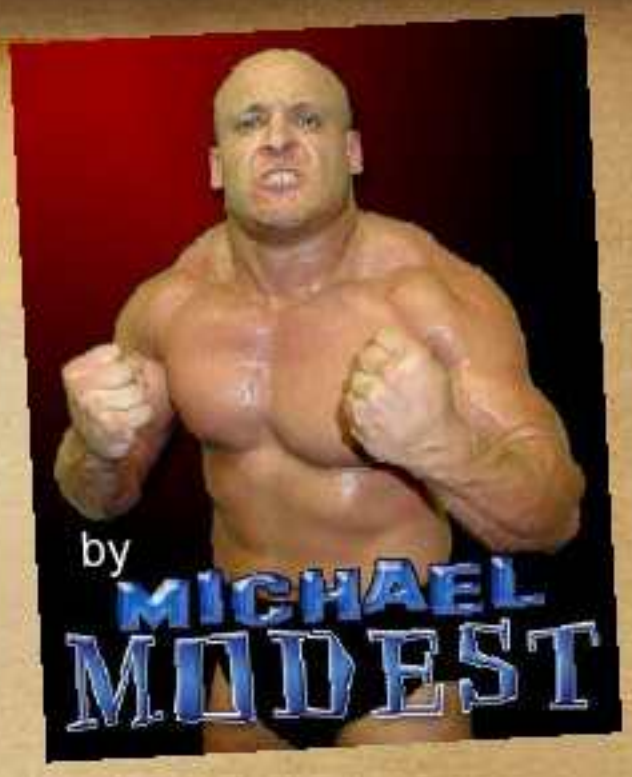
Today however, I think that I will need the sleep. I am exhausted. Unfortunately, one of my flatmates is returning to New Zealand this weekend, and is 'celebrating' this by playing loud music and drinking a lot, with several others. It remains to be seen how much sleep I will get…

Still, Uprising tomorrow!

John Atkins is an MMA announcer, former pro-wrestling announcer/commentator, and jobbing stand-up comedian. His first novel, Getting On Famously is available now, from Amazon.

Steel Folding Chair

A Poem by Michael Modest



| michael.modest@gmail.com |
| www.mikemodest.com |

2x4, kendo stick, baking sheet, barbed wire prick,
Extension ladder, Or Al's head and her hair,
The foreign object I like best is a steel folding chair.

Multi use, in the ring, crack your head with a swing
Fold it out, jump right off, over the ropes, hope your caught!
It helps you leap through the air, wonderful steel folding chair!

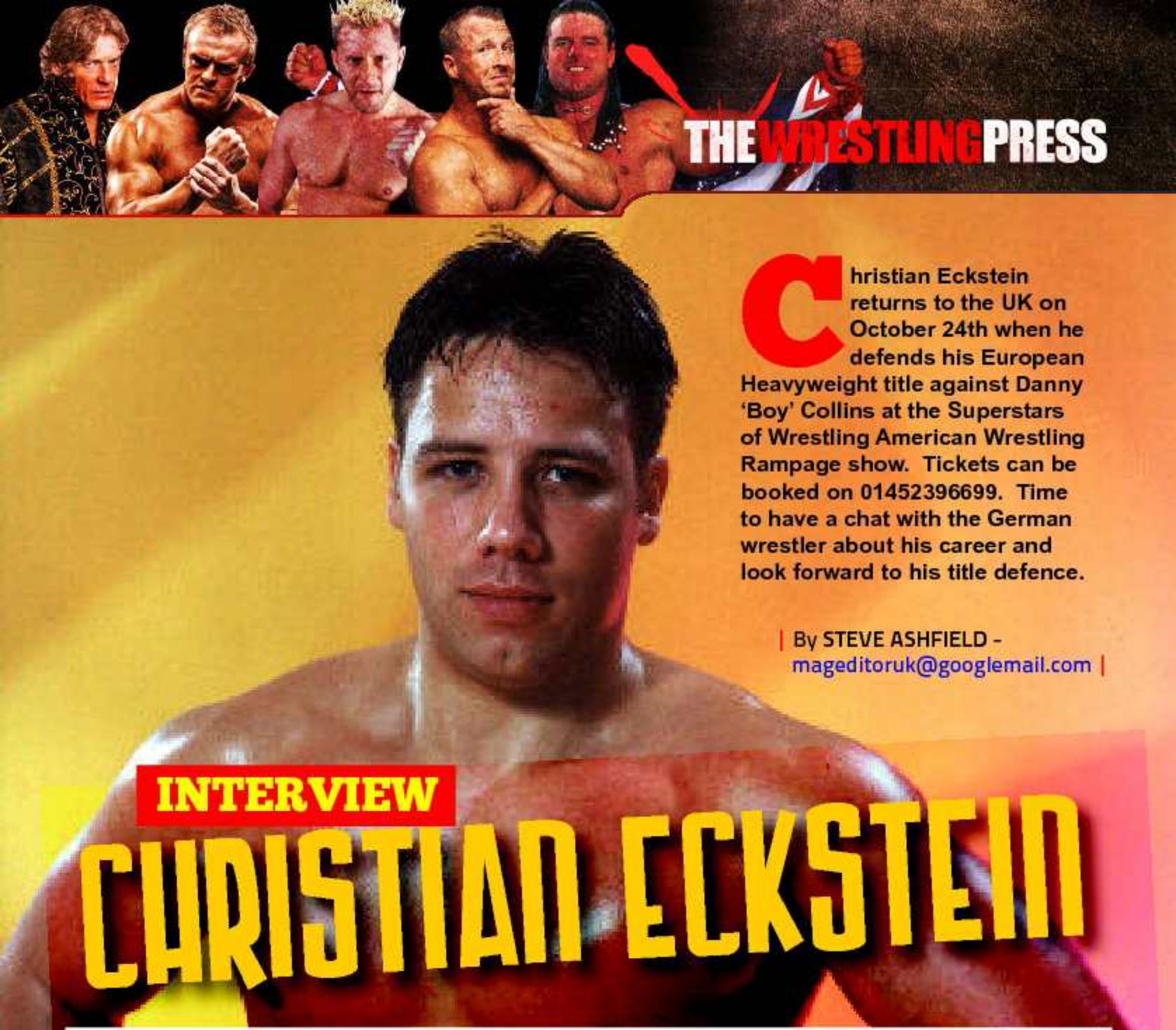
Ray the crippler, terry funk, Iron shiek, The dog of JUNK,
Jimmy Snuka, bam bam too, used a chair I thought you knew

Its for the head, for the throat, before you use it heres a note,
Directions for its safe use, use the flat side you silly goose

The chair works best on the floor, throw me through them, bowling score
The chairs they topple just like pins, scattered fans, a strike again!
Splashing soda, corn that pops, posters, pictures, one moms hot!
My baby fell, big pig screams, she only has lawsuit dreams.

Im standing now by the post, heres a spot I like most
Swing the chair right at my head, high velocity, but instead
I will duck, it will miss, with any luck, I'll draw my fist
When the chair it hits the post, the fans, will gasp boy that was close!
Then a comeback you will see, Punch you twice, and then with glee
Grab the chair quite naturally,throw it, swing it, lay me down, put the chair upon my crown,
Moonsault, leg drop, either / or, but don't use it like a whore
Use it once, maybe twice, but listen close to my advice
Use it three times theres a price, it seems your chair has lost its bite
It might as well be just a kite

The ref looks foolish, the crowd don't care, you've over used the steele chair
Once has zing, twice has flair, three your disqualified, and I don't care!
Abused and bent, I don't have a spare, nor the money for repair,
So take it easy, use it well, made with fine us steel, a vet a legend, its been around, rusted steele but ohhh that sound, it makes a click it makes a clack, it pops real good upon the back, but on the head your hear a thwack,
if its sold, red to green, if you've used a chair you know what I mean.



Christian Eckstein returns to the UK on October 24th when he defends his European Heavyweight title against Danny 'Boy' Collins at the Superstars of Wrestling American Wrestling Rampage show. Tickets can be booked on 01452396699. Time to have a chat with the German wrestler about his career and look forward to his title defence.

By STEVE ASHFIELD - mageditoruk@googlemail.com

INTERVIEW

CHRISTIAN ECKSTEIN

> When did you first get interested in pro wrestling and when did that interest turn into a desire to become a pro wrestler?

I was about 18 years when I saw wrestling on TV. Got me hooked. Found out about shows in Germany and traveled there. After a few months I got friendly with a few guys and started training in Hamburg. I was still studying at university then and never thought about doing wrestling full time. That was all in 1992. But in 1996 I got an offer to wrestle in the famous tournaments in Hannover and Bremen, I could not resist

> You were trained by WWE star Fit Finlay, what was he like as a trainer and how hard did you find that training process?

I was trained by a lot of wrestlers. I got to know Dave Finlay in 1996 in Hannover and he used to train a few people in a wrestling school during the tournaments. I always asked if I could join and learned a lot from him. He is a very intelligent man and wrestler. But a hard bastard as well! He has done so much great things for wrestling! I wish him all the best in America!

> What memories do you have of your pro debut?

That was in 1992. I was thrown in a rumble in Karlsruhe, Germany. A lot of tough English wrestlers there - Skull Murphy, Marty Jones, Robbie Brookside. I got a hell of a beating.

> You've wrestled many times in the UK, what are your thoughts on the promotions you've appeared for (especially Premier where they still use the rounds system) and how does it compare to the German scene.

We still use rounds in Germany in some matches. I think it's still the best style for wrestling to do it in rounds. So much more potential for a match. I appreciate Premier Promotions still doing those kinds of matches. It's always good to wrestle for Premier. I also loved working for the Wrestling Alliance. Scott Conway had a lot of respect for the wrestlers and we always had fun there.

All Star is the longest running promotion in England, but there aren't enough "older" wrestlers around to teach the younger ones. So it's more Americanized because that's a lot easier. If you like American wrestling, that's good. I also worked for WAW a few weeks ago. That was fun too. All the other promotions in England I don't really know. I know a few guys who run them, but really, a lot of kids stuff. Like in Germany, a lot of kids "playing" wrestling. Everyone can make himself a star now on the internet. So the quality outside of the established promotions is often just not there at all. But even if they get a good card together, they don't know how to promote shows. 100 fans on a show with 10 Americans and Japanese on is just not worth it.

> In October you defend your title against Danny 'Boy' Collins in Gloucester who you've met many times including a chain match. What are your thoughts on your opponent and how tough a defence is this going to be for you?

I've wrestled Dan Collins probably 50 times in my life. He's one of the toughest guys I know. Last year on one of our shows he beat some American up who's twice Danny's size. That says it all. It's going to be tough for me. A match with Danny Collins is always like being run over by a truck.

> Who have been your toughest opponents, I should imagine Robbie Brookside and Doug Williams must be near the top of the list?

Robbie Brookside, Dave Finlay, Dan Collins, Masahiro Chono.

> What was it like facing a legend like Terry Funk in 2002?

It was great! What a guy! I was very nervous before. But once the bell rings, you just have to fight. And so we did!

> August saw you in the UK making an unsuccessful challenge for the WAW World Heavyweight title held by The Zebra Kid. What are your memories of that match and do you hope to get another chance sometime in the future?

I will go back to WAW and beat Zebra up! But then, I want to fight him in his hometown in Norwich. Last time I wrestled there was 1993 - what a scruffy place!

> How strong do you think the German wrestling scene is at present?

It's getting better again, but as I said before, a lot of kids shows. The general opinion in Germany about wrestling isn't the best, and so it's much harder than in countries like England, America or Japan. We even have age restrictions here - no one under 14 is allowed to watch the shows. Wrestling on TV only after 22pm. That sucks! Kids love wrestling, but German politicians are just - well, politicians!

> What was it like facing Maven in a WWE match?

It was great to go out and open the show in Newcastle. Everyone in the place expected to see those big American TV stars. And out came some goofy German that nobody ever heard of before in Newcastle. Got great heat! As far as Maven - he's so American!

> Can you tell our readers more about the European Wrestling Promotions company and the big show coming up in October?

We've been running shows in Germany since 1998 but we've also done tours to England, Dubai, Russia, Cyprus. Oct 3rd is going to be a big show. Dave Taylor, Danny Collins, Robby Brookside, great English wrestlers! Mabel, Gangrel, big US stars. Leon Van Gasteren, great Dutch high-flyer. Without doubt the best card in Germany this year!

> How can the readers find out more about you and your career?

wrestling24.de is our website, but there's lots of other stuff on the internet as well.

FORUM FROLICS

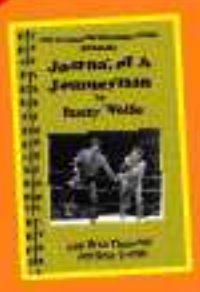
By PWPfrog - froggylllc@aol.com

Threads in Forum : General Whackiness

Thread / Thread Starter
*One guy named **Bulletz** had responded to every single thread on the first page alone of a forum, all on the same date. Many of the initial entries related to topics from three months or so ago, but he or she only got round to commenting on them in the past few days. And no, I didn't find any comments worthy of feeding back to you guys. Just amazed that someone spent hours reading and commenting on old news!*
Random Quotes
Batista is starting to get on my good side. **The Hunter**
In response to this... is that because you are mentally challenged **Untouchable Foley Fan**
HBK's always looked like a dork.... he goes out there with his jeans tucked up to his armpits and his boots OVER his jeans, he looks like an escaped mental patient to be honest. **Wwekiller (Say what you think hon, don't hold back now)**
On Ted DiBiase staring in 'The Marine 2"
F&@k you wyndofy. Ted is a sexy bastard. He's gonna win an oscar. **Dpddpddave. (OK then. I for one will not be buying this DVD, but I am probably one of the only people who brought the first one just for Robert Patrick!)**
On the "You pick guest host" thread –
William Shatner for RAW Guest host – **Ighiksas (OMG I would LOVE that! Book him now!!!)**
On the "Possible RAW UK GUEST HOST?" thread
hmmm i recon Becks should go lol it will be good :P **ALEKS79 (One word, PEPSI. Don't book Becks!!)**
Liam Gallagher... I mean, what else has he got to do now except get fat, abuse people and learn new swear words? He'd be awesome. How good would he fit in with DX! **B-DADDY**
There was a lot of discussion about a backstage fight between The Big Show & The Great Khali. So many voiced what everyone else was thinking!
So, the Big Show fell over because of a bag, at which point, The GReat Kahli mounted him and started SLAPPING him in the face? This sounds like the greatest thing ever. **John Hancock**

Threads in Forum : General Whackiness

	Thread / Thread Starter
	Big Show fell. Oh I wish this could be leaked onto youtube... **The.Icon**
	One source said, Show slipped on someone's bag and it was over. So big Show is putting bags over now... **The.Icon**
	Nah, sounds like the bag put Big Show over. **TGO**
	Re: The Official WWE Ask a Question Thread
	How come when a tag tem partner accidentally hits the other partner.. they have a big bust up and a huge feud? Why doesnt the other partner view a tape of last weeks show to see it was just an accident? **RatedR** *In response to this…* Because it's not real :P it's all a storyline to get them to face each other. **noeldebrun (spoilsport!)** *Wait, he's back with more* How come when refs are knocked down, they suddenly wake up to count the pin? **RatedR** Again it's not real :P its the storytelling of the match. **noeldebrun (and while I'm here, there is no tooth fairy or Santa Claus)**
	"Which Diva Is The Worst Role Model For Kids? Who Is The Best Role Model For Kids???" thread
	Bad: Kelly (she'll teach them slutiness). **'Wee' John**
	Maryse = Bad role Model because she sets a example of getting naked is the right way. - Playboy 6 times? Really? Would you people want your daughters in Playboy that many times exposing their body for no reason? **Trish screaming ninja awesomeness** (**errm ask Kendra's folks, or Holly's or any of the other playmates…money might have something to do with it?**)
	The worst diva role model for kids, there's a couple - lita is one because she bad expamle for girls to get tats and stuff and it's ok to to show your panites - layla and kelly and kelly when they started - and another worst diva is candanice. It's ok to pose semi nude on tv for go daddy and stuff - good diva role expamles are maria, beth phoenix, meliena, gail kim, mickie james **KID12369 (Oh no, I'm going to hell then with all my tattoos. Does VPL count as showing your panties?)** **That's it for today folks, more forum surfing coming soon…**



IN HIS BOOK, YOU WILL LEARN HOW DUSTY worked his way through the territories of wrestling during a time when Vince McMahon was taking his World Wrestling Federation to unforeseen heights. His years of working regularly for the WWF are covered and you'll learn how Dusty was given the task of helping Tiny Lister (Zeus) prepare for a main event run against Hulk Hogan in 1989.

Journal of a Journeyman - Available from www.rasslinriotonline.com - $19.99

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